fraught with such immense difficulty, and seems to be so illogical, that it seems difficult to believe it is ever made. Lusk asserts that it can be foreshadowed, and in some instances prevented. This is a refinement of diagnosis not as yet reached by German obstetricians, and not admitted by German writers.

Leopold is having some good results from Saenger's method of Cæsarian section, and prefers this conservative plan to the Porro-Müller. He has had three cases, all of them successful.

Dr. Hans Buchner ("Ueber die Experimentale Erzeugung des Milzbrandcontagiums, etc.") says that he has succeeded in transforming the common bacillus of hay infusion, the hay bacillus, into the anthrax bacillus, and that he has done this by successive cultivation of bacillus anthracis under *constant variation of the nutritive material*. Morphologically considered, both of these forms come under the head of Cohn's bacillus subtilis. Lately I have gone very carefully through all of Buchner's work, but I have entirely failed to reproduce his results. The bacillus anthracis is non-motile. Ewart's assertion that they became motile is not borne out by more elaborate experiments. Koch regards Buchner's statements that successive cultivations of the bacillus anthracis at 35° to 37° assumes the morphological and physiological characteristics of hay bacillus as a complete error. It will be a serious matter for the animal kingdom if Buchner's opinions shall be substantiated by other observers.

H. R. B.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE

EPIDEMIC DYSENTERY AT PORTER, INDIANA.

EDITOR JOURNAL AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:

Dear Sir:—In as much as I have many cases under treatment at Porter, Indiana, I deem it expedient to give you my observation of the existing epidemic. The malady raging is *epidemic dysentery*. Since Aug. 3, I have had, at Porter, 28 cases of dysentery under my care. Two of these cases, Mrs. Theo. B——, aged 20 years, and Peter S——, aged 14 years, are of a typhoid type,—prognosis doubtful; the other cases, 26 in number, are improving.

A rumor has gained currency that the epidemic at Porter was caused by the eating of diseased meat, purchased of a certain butcher of Chesterton, Indiana. Of the 28 cases under my care, not one had eaten meat purchased from said butcher; and in many instances, no meat had been eaten for several weeks.

Porter, Indiana, is situated on a low flat tract of land, and is not blessed with any kind of sewerage or drainage. Ditches run parallel with the sidewalks of the several thoroughfares,—these ditches have no outlet. The main alley of the town is a mass of garbage and filth; the majority of the privies along this alley are overflowing. As a rule, the well in each yard is from 10 to 20 feet from the alley and privy. The floors of the houses set on the damp ground and, in many instances, six to eight people are crowded into two or three rooms.

For three weeks previous to Aug. 1, Porter had been subjected to sudden vicissitudes of temperature from a high to a low range; for the seven days previous to Aug. 1, the climate resembled a tropical one, and was followed by a heavy, drenching rain of 24 hours duration, making a fall of about 4½ to 5 inches of water. The lack of the proper sewerage and drainage; the bad sanitary condition of the town; the continued high temperature, followed by a heavy rain-fall; the swampy country; the damp and cold crowded houses; the polluted well water; the noxious air;—all were conducive to miasmatic diseases of the dysenteric type. After a thorough investigation, I have failed to trace a single one of my 28 cases to tainted meat.

Yours truly,

ALEX. J. MULLEN, JR., M.D.

Michigan City, August 10, 1885.

BOOK REVIEWS.

A SYSTEM OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE. BY AMERICAN AUTHORS. EDITED BY WILLIAM PEPPER, M. D., LL. D., etc. Assisted by LOUIS STARR, M. D., etc. Volume II. General Diseases (continued) and Diseases of the Digestive System. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1885.

What was said of the general character of this work, in the notice of the first volume, need not be repeated here. Indeed, in order to show the value of the second volume, it is scarcely necessary to do more than give a list of the various subjects treated of, with the names of the writers.

The first 254 pages of the work are what may be called a continuation of the first volume, on General Diseases. The volume opens with an article on Rheumatism, by Prof. Howard, of McGill University, and is followed by one on Gout, by Dr. W. H. Draper. The other articles on general diseases are: Rachitis, by A. Jacobi; Scurvy, by Philip S. Wales; Purpura, by I. Edmondson Atkinson; Diabetes Mellitus, by James Tyson; Scrofula, by John S. Lynch; and Hereditary Syphilis, by J. William White. With such an array of most excellent articles by thoroughly competent writers it is difficult to select one or two that seem worthy of special mention. Those on Diabetes and Hereditary Syphilis, however, seem more worthy of special mention, if any are. Professor Tyson's article, though occupying only thirty-six pages, seems to leave nothing unsaid that could possibly be of benefit to the practitioner who has under his care a case of diabetes; and it is especially valuable for the remarks on the tests for sugar and the bill of fare for diabetics. The writer is deservedly known for his thorough urological work, and the diet table for diabetics is alone worth the price of the work.

Dr. J. William White discusses the subject Hereditary Syphilis in 64 pages, with an array of references that is marvelous as regards completeness, there being not less than two hundred and ten. Of the article itself it need scarcely be said that it is as complete as an article on this subject could possibly be.

In the second part of the book, on Diseases of the Digestive System, are thirty articles. Those