of the food at each meal, before and after treatment, and, as was previously mentioned, some have recovered on this alone, and a list of the number of operations may be seen in almost every newspaper published in Boston.

A few words in regard to the discussion: As has been said, the Hospital has been under operation for over a year, and as Mr. Murdock states in his advertisements, one side is under the management of gentlemen belonging to the Massachusetts Medical Society, these gentlemen being connected with it from the start. The whole thing has been looked upon as not exactly the proper thing; still, nothing was done, and things simply took their own proper course, till the *Boston Journal of Health*, in a series of articles exposing fraudulent and deceptive foods and medicines, took up "Murdock's Liquid Food" among the number, exposing the falsity of the preparation, composition, and profit in a lengthy article. Mr. Murdock then saw fit to answer this, stating why he thought the article had been written, and denying some of the statements, making quite a breezy article: To this the *Journal* replies only in stronger terms, denouncing in emphatic language the preparation, and replying to some of Mr. Murdock's statements or rather mis-statements; things were getting interesting.

In the meantime Dr. Marcy, who had severed his connection some time previously to any thought of the discussion, published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, a card stating his previous withdrawal from the Murdock Hospital, and giving as his reasons for so doing that the hospital was not acting up to its agreement, in regard to running and management of the hospital. Immediately, Mr. Murdock replies in the following number of the same journal, contradicting flatly some of Dr. Marcy's statements, and referring to letters of the Council of Ethics of Massachusetts Medical Society, in commendation of the enterprise, which in the next issue of the *Journal*, was flatly contradicted by the Council, thus leaving the way open for Dr. Cushing to show the letter which they claim he has not.

Here the matter rested, and interest is still maintained as to the outcome. Mr. Murdock has very much retracted and modified his advertisement in the daily papers, but probably with the means at his disposal, among which may be reckoned the *Annals of Gynecology* and the hospital, will endeavor to keep before the public the merits of his food preparations, while the *Journal of Health* intends pushing its exposé, and bring the whole thing plainly and truthfully in its proper light, along with others, the latest being Scotch Oats Essence.

I hope we have not wearied you with this account of our little tempest in our medical teapot, which has been written only with the idea that some of the wrath and fury of the storm may have bubbled over, and reached the outside world, thus concerning, perhaps, others than the ones directly interested.

w.

DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES has presented his medical library to the Boston Medical Library Association.

INVERSION FOR SUSPENDED ANIMATION IN ANÆSTHESIA.

Dear Sir:—In THE JOURNAL of April 7th, is an editorial on the recent paper of Dr. J. J. Chisolm, entitled, "A very valuable lesson for those who use anæsthetics." It is customary, I think, for a writer or a reviewer in papers like those just mentioned to allude to the published observations of others who have experimented in the same field. I have not a copy of Dr. Chisolm's article and do not know what reference is made to other observers. The general reader would, however, infer from the editorial that what had been written previously had escaped the attention of the author and of the editor.

The subject of position is cases of apparent death from the use of chloroform is of great importance. After repeated experiments in cases of slight and alarming symptoms during the administration of chloroform, I became convinced that a sure remedy was at hand in every such case. If death has occurred, there is reason to believe that there was carelessness in watching for the first cessation of breathing and of the heart's action, and that there was an attempt to use other means *previous* to the complete inversion of the patient.

As an interne in the Massachusetts General Hospital I once aided a distinguished surgeon in holding suspended by one foot, a boy with a crushed thigh, who was, as it were, dead. He was held in this position till life reappeared. My own observations and experiments were made in 1867-8, and were published in the Transactions of the Illinois State Medical Society for the year 1868. Portions of this paper were copied in the work of Prof. H. M. Lyman on "Artificial Anæsthesia," etc. The story of Piorry, Nélaton and the rats was entirely unknown to me at the time I made my report. The late Dr. J. Marion Sims, and a physician in New Orleans, whose name I have forgotten, published articles on this subject some years since.

E. L. HOLMES, M.D.

Chicago, April 16, 1888.

[The limits of editorial space precluded the publication of the names of men that have used inversion in the cases under consideration, and their experiments. The writer of the editorial article in question knew that inversion has been used by other men than Dr. Chisolm, and he himself has used it successfully in two cases in which he was the administrator. Obviously, also, it is impossible for a writer to search such inaccessible literature as State Society Transactions for possibly existing papers. The editorial was not written to tell something actually *new*, but to call attention to a method that has given good results in the hands of a surgeon of vast experience.—ED.]

RUPTURE OF FUNIS.

Dear Sir:—On April 4th I was called to see Martha Brown (col'd), who had given birth to ten children. She had been in labor for about forty-eight hours. The head had been born about four hours before I saw her, and with the uterus most powerfully contracting failed to make any further

advance. I found the child dead, with the cord around the neck, the epidermis removed from the greater part of the face and neck. By gentle manipulations and traction I very soon succeeded in delivering the child and found the funis detached from the umbilicus and greatly diminished in size. The length was about normal. I found the placenta partially attached to the fundus with hour-glass contraction.

The fœtus, from the statement of the woman, must have been dead for more than a week as she received a fall from a fence and had felt no movement since. Antiseptic precautions were strictly enjoined, and she is now doing well, having had for a day or two a slight rise of temperature.

Rupture of the funis with the mother in the horizontal position, with normal length of cord (as in this case) has been reported in only two cases. One by Späth (fœtus macerated) and one by Dupuy. To these Budin (Paris) adds two cases.

B. A. DUNCAN, M.D.

West Point, Miss., April 10, 1888.

STATE MEDICINE.

STATE SANITARY CONVENTION.

At Lewisburg, Union County, Pa. To be held under the auspices of the State Board of Health, Thursday and Friday, May 17 and 18, 1888.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

(Subject to amendment.)

FIRST DAY.

Opening Address, by His Excellency, the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Address of Welcome, by D. J. Hill, LL.D., President of Bucknell University.

"The Prevention of Contagious Ophthalmia," Dr. P. N. K. Schwenk, of Philadelphia.

"Diseased Meats and the Prevention of Trichinosis," Dr. G. W. Furey, of Sunbury, Pa.

"The Water Supply of Lewisburg," Prof. W. G. Owens, Bucknell University.

EVENING SESSION.

Annual Address, Hon. S. T. Dans, M.D., Lancaster, Pa.

"Cremation as a means of Disposal of the Dead," Dr. B. F. Hyatt, of Lewisburg, Pa.

SECOND DAY.—9 A.M.

"Small-pox in Country Places," Dr. Fetterolf, of Mazepa, Pa.

"Hygiene of the Teeth," Dr. H. Gerhart, of Lewisburg, Pa.

"Insanity Among Women," Alice Bennett, M.D., Resident Physician, State Hospital for the Insane, Norristown, Pa.

"Sanitary Protective Associations," Benj. Lee, M.D., Sec'y of the State Board of Health.

"Sanitary Shortcomings of Lewisburg," Dr. W. B.

Atkinson, Sec'y Penna. State Medical Society, and Medical Inspector to the State Board of Health.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

"School Hygiene," Dr. G. G. Groff, of Lewisburg, member of the State Board of Health.

"Household Hygiene," Prof. Frances Emily White, Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.

"How Germs Cause Disease," Dr. V. C. Vaughan, of Michigan University.

"The Drainage of Lewisburg," Mr. S. D. Bates, of Lewisburg, Pa.

EVENING SESSION.

Illustrated Lecture, Dr. Edwards, of the State Board of Health.

Papers are also expected from Dr. J. H. Kennedy, Shamokin, Pa.; Dr. A. Schultz, Superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, Danville, Pa.; and other distinguished scientific men.

It will be observed that while distinguished sanitarians from a distance will take part in the proceedings, the aim has been to make the latter, to a considerable extent, of practical use to the citizens of Lewisburg and its neighbors, and to enlist them in the study of its sanitary problems. For this reason they will be of great interest to all residents in small towns and rural districts, the conditions of which are necessarily very similar. The Convention will be presided over by the Hon. S. T. Davis, M.D., member of the State Legislature, of Lancaster, Pa.

A more definite programme will be issued later.

GEORGE G. GROFF, M.D.,

BENJAMIN LEE, M.D., Sec'y,
Committee.

NECROLOGY.

CALVIN ELLIS.

Calvin Ellis, M.D., was born in Boston, August 15, 1826, and died on December 14, 1883. He was a lineal descendant, in the seventh generation, of a farmer named Ellis who with some of his fellow-townsmen emigrated to New England in 1634 from old Dedham, County of Essex, England. Dr. Ellis was fitted for college at the Chauncey Hall school in Boston, and entered Harvard in 1842. His classmates remember him as a modest, genial companion, active in athletic sports, and ranking so as to secure a commencement part. Dr. Ellis used to say of himself that he played in college and "first awoke to the full meaning of life when he began the study of medicine." He entered the Harvard Medical School in 1846, and immediately won the attention of his teachers by his diligence and marked proficiency. Appointed in 1849 as resident pupil in the Massachusetts General Hospital he was noted as an assistant who carried out orders promptly and implicitly. After taking his medical degree, in 1850, he spent two years in the French and German hospitals, making a special study of clinical medicine, morbid anatomy and pathology. On returning to Boston he