

Association, and is an honor which he has worthily won.

The selection of Minneapolis as the next place of meeting was wise, and gives assurance in advance, if any were needed, of the prospective success of next year's meeting.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### A Philological Problem from Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Aug. 15, 1895.

*To the Editor:*—In one of the latest numbers of the *JOURNAL* is an extract from the *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift* on "The New Anatomic Nomenclature," and the number also contains an editorial commendation of the idea. In reading the extract I note that, "it was resolved that the terms should be in one language, that is, Latin designations only. . . . The names shall be Latin, and etymologically correct."

That promises well, but when I look at the examples given by the *JOURNAL*, I find the first one given to be "osteologia," a pure Greek word, with nothing Latin about it! Liddell and Scott define *ὀστεολογία* as "the science which treats of bones." "Splanchnologia" and "angiologia" are also Greek, from *Σπλαγχνον* viscera, and *ἄγγειον* a blood vessel, respectively, and these are not the only examples.

I do not wish to be considered a captious critic, but isn't it rather singular that a nomenclature which professes to contain only Latin terms, and those etymologically correct, should bristle with so many pure Greek words?

Very truly yours, D. W. NEAL, M.D.

*ANSWER:*—We do not dispute the Greek origin of the words mentioned, but they are transferred words, and used in Latin with entire propriety. Osteologia is given in Foster's Medical Dictionary as a Latin word. Leverett's Latin Lexicon gives osteologia as the Latin synonym for the English word, osteology. So also does Wm. Young in his Latin English Dictionary. Nearly all scientific words used by the Latin writers were transferred bodily.

### A Question of Ethics.

ORAN, MO., Aug. 8, 1895.

*To the Editor:*—Will you kindly answer the following question in your next issue:

Is it unprofessional or not, to divide your fees with "Granny women?" I have a colleague who gives his assistant midwife \$1 while he takes \$9 for his obstetrical fee. I told him that it was the business of the patron to pay the fees of both physician and nurse, and that when a physician divided his fees with would-be midwives it looked very much like "drumming" for practice. Please answer and oblige,

Very respectfully yours, W. P. HOWLE, M.D.

*ANSWER:*—The dividing the fee in an obstetrical case with the nurse or other attendant is in the nature of drumming for practice, or the acceptance by the physician of a percentage from an apothecary. No self-respecting physician should indulge in such methods.

### A Staunch Defender.

ATLANTA, GA.

*To the Editor:*—The sanious exudation from a gangrenous ulcer does not indicate more clearly its true character, than does the utter disregard of correct principle show the reviewership of the communication in your number of August 24, headed, "The Code, Once More," and signed "Amicus Veritatis."

It should have had for a caption, "No Code," and for signature, "Vox Asini." Respectfully, VIRTUS.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**The Cell, Outlines of General Anatomy and Physiology.**—By DR. OSCAR HERTWIG, Professor Extraordinarius of Anatomy and Comparative Anatomy, Director of the II Anatomical Institute of the University of Berlin. Translated by M. CAMPBELL and edited by DR. HENRY JOHNSTONE CAMPBELL, of London. With 168 illustrations, 8 vo., cloth, pp. 368. Price, \$3. London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co. New York: MacMillan & Co. 1895.

The author has in this book not only prepared a supplement to his work on embryology, but has endeavored to fix the scientific standpoint at present occupied by the doctrines of cell and tissue formation.

Much in the book is necessarily theoretical, and may yet be changed by the advance of science, for as the author well says: "The cell is a marvelously complicated organism, a small universe, into the construction of which we can only laboriously penetrate by means of microscopic, chemico-physical and experimental methods of inquiry."

"In many respects," says our author, "the cell theory is the center around which the biologic research of the present time revolves," and while he admits with Max Schultze that "the protoplasm of plants and animals and the sarcode of the lowest organisms are identical," and that the term "cell" is incorrect, he yet retains it under the definition that the "cell is a little mass of protoplasm, which contains in its interior a specially formed portion, the nucleus." The chemico-physical and morphologic properties of the cell are first described, and then the vital properties are treated of. These include: 1, Contractility; 2, Irritability; 3, Metabolism; 4, Reproduction. The work concludes with a chapter on "the cell as the elementary germ of an organism," and "theories of heredity." This book, then, is seen to deal with one of the most important of all the fundamental problems of biology, and we can commend it to the readers of the *JOURNAL* as embodying in entertaining and easily understood language, the most advanced theories concerning the anatomy and physiology of that mass of protoplasm which we term a cell, and of its nucleus, which in the present state of knowledge we must regard as the true elemental organ of life.

**Parvin's Science and Art of Obstetrics; the Science and Art of Obstetrics.** By THEOPHILUS PARVIN, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. New (3d) edition. In one very handsome octavo volume of 677 pages, with 267 engravings, and 2 colored plates. Cloth, \$4.25; leather, \$5.25. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., Publishers. 1895.

The publication of the new edition of Parvin's standard treatise emphasizes well the fact that it has for some years supplied the need for a new text-book from the great Philadelphia school. The University had Dewees and Hodge, and Jefferson had Meigs. The long sway held by Meigs at Jefferson and the great popularity of his text-book, based as it was on elegance of style, quaintness of expression, keen observation and natural eloquence, made it rather difficult for Professor Parvin, but it must be conceded that he well filled the vacancy. His scientific knowledge, his wide range of information and his vast acquaintance with general literature, enabled him to prepare a book that is not less entertaining from a literary standpoint than from a professional one. Much valuable historical matter finds a place in this volume.

Old members of the ASSOCIATION will recall with pleasure that Professor Parvin presided at the thirtieth annual meeting at Atlanta in 1879, and will rejoice to see that although more than a quarter of a century has elapsed, the venerable ex-President revises and largely re-writes a work which shows him still in the foreground in his chosen field of medical science.