

## ANTAGONISM OF ALCOHOL AND DIPHThERIA.

We have received a little book upon this subject written by Prof. E. N. Chapman of Brooklyn. The author, after some twenty years' experience, part of the time very extensive, has arrived at the conclusion that alcohol is as purely and essentially a specific for the diphtheritic poison as quinine is for that of intermittent fever. He insists upon the early administration of the remedy—as soon as the character of the lesion is ascertained—in large quantities and frequently repeated. Judging from a comparison of his statistics with those under the other methods of treatment that have been adopted, Prof. Chapman has undoubtedly the best of the argument in his favour. So far as we are aware, too, he is the first who has attributed such unusual efficiency to alcohol in the treatment of this terrible disease. The fact has long been admitted that, in this and all diseases in which great prostration of the vital powers becomes manifest, alcoholic stimulants constitute one of the most important elements of successful treatment. But no one before Prof. Chapman has ventured so far as to claim for alcohol any specific agency. We are inclined strongly to concur in the view enunciated by him, as well as many others, as to the primary blood-poisoning in diphtheria. We think, too, that alcoholic stimulants, with quinine, iron, and chlorate of potash, constitute the most rational kind of treatment that has thus far been recommended; but as we have not had any experience in testing the specificity of alcohol, we are unable to offer any positive opinion. Certainly, with the enormous death-rate that has attended *all* the other modes of treatment, we would be justified, upon the very encouraging success which has followed this in Prof. Chapman's hands, in giving it a trial. One thing, we fear, is certain, that the profession has much to learn yet upon the management of the disease before it has been stripped of its terrors. We are not justified, therefore, in rejecting any recommendation which seems to offer the smallest encouragement for success.

We commend the careful perusal of this little book to our professional brethren, with

the assurance that the many suggestions offered upon the subject of diphtheria will amply repay them. The style is elegant, and withal practical and unpretentious beyond the laudable effort to convey valuable practical information.

Dr. Ord, of St. Thomas' Hospital, London, Eng., has kindly promised us a second clinical lecture on "the Examination of Urine." It will appear in a future issue.

The 10th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Cure of Inebriates will be held on Sept. 10th, 1878, in Union Hall, Boston, Mass.

## Book Notices.

*Annual Announcement of the Department of the University of Michigan for 1878-9; Department of Medicine and Surgery, Ann Arbor, 1878.*

*Eighth Annual Announcement of the Faculty of Medicine of Bishop's College, Montreal, Session 1878-79.*

*The Obstetric Forceps, When and How to Use It.* By GEORGE J. ENGELMANN, M.D., St. Louis.

*A Hystero-Psychosis Epilepsy dependent upon Erosions of the Cervix Uteri.* By GEORGE J. ENGELMANN, M.D., St. Louis.

*Eighteenth Annual Announcement of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Sessions of 1878-79, with the Annual Catalogue for 1877-78.*

*Ninth Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, January, 1878.* Boston: Rand, Avery, & Co.

*Remarks on Ovariectomy, With an Appendix containing the History of several Typical Cases met with in Practice.* By J. W. ROSEBRUGH, M.D., Hamilton.

*Prize List Thirty-third Provincial Exhibition of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario, 1878, Sept. 23 to 28.* Journal of Arts Association of Ontario.