

than any hitherto issued in Canada, and the result has fully proved the correctness of our belief. Commencing with a comparatively small circulation, and without any effort on our part, for we have not obtained a single subscriber through a paid canvasser, we close the volume with a *bona fide* list of subscribers almost four times as large as had the *Canada Medical Journal* when it ceased to be published, one year ago. We circulate in every Province in the Dominion, also to a limited extent in the Western States (among Canadian graduates) and along the border States. We hope to make the next volume even more practical than the present one, and earnestly solicit contributions of any kind from our friends. The title page and index for the present volume will be sent with the next number.

A few of our subscribers have not yet paid their subscriptions. We enclose accounts in this number, and respectfully ask for a prompt reply.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

With our next volume we will commence a column "Answers to Correspondents," in which we will be happy to answer any enquiries that may be put to us.

Reviews.

Clinical Lectures on various Important Diseases; being a collection of the Clinical Lectures delivered in the Medical Wards of the Mercy Hospital, Chicago. By Nathan S. Davis, A.M., M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine, in Chicago Medical College. Edited by Frank Davis, M.D., Chicago: J. J. Spalding & Co., 158 Clark Street, 1873.

This little work is made up of Clinical reports which appeared in the columns of the *Chicago Medical Examiner*. We have read the book nearly through, and can recommend it to our readers as one in which they will find a number of useful and practical hints. It is by no means an exhaustive treatise on Clinical medicine, but consists of lectures on a few of the more important diseases met with in hospital practice. The lecture on cerebro-spinal fever is especially interesting in view of the present epidemic of the disease in this city, and from the fact of the author's having passed through an epidemic in Chicago, during the months of February, March and April, 1872; witnessing forty cases in his own practice, besides a number of others in consul-

tation with other medical men. Four-fifths of the cases witnessed by Dr. Davis were among the poor and laboring classes of the city. Of the forty cases six were adults, between the ages of twenty and thirty years; ten between five and fifteen, and twenty-four between six months and five years. Like almost all observers Dr. Davis has been unable, in the course of his experience, to gather any evidence of the infectiousness or communicability of the disease. The lecturer ventures the following with regard to the pathology of the disease: "I have been led to regard the disease as consisting in an exaltation of the susceptibility or irritability of the structure of the cerebro-spinal axis, including the whole base of the brain, with diminished tonic or contractility of the blood-vessels. If the alteration of the property of susceptibility is intense, and extends directly to the centre of the excito-motory system, it cuts short life very speedily—sometimes in a few hours—without leaving visible alterations in the brain or its membranes. But if the morbid action be less intense, or involve less directly the chief excito-motory center, in the medulla oblongata, life may be prolonged until either recovery takes place or the vascular engorgement ends in effusion of serum, &c."

Dr. Davis' treatment of the first few cases which occurred to him consisted in the application of leeches to the temples and mastoid processes; cold to the head; mild cathartics; full doses of bromide of potassium, aided by chloral at night to procure sleep. His experience of these modes of treatment was decidedly unsatisfactory. He then bethought himself of the beneficial results obtained from the use of Calabar Bean in tetanus, and other forms of muscular rigidity from irritation of the mucous centres, and resolved to try it in this disease. The result, in a number of cases, was apparently quite favorable. If the author's views of the pathology of the disease be correct, we should expect that remedies which diminish nervous excitability and increase vascular tonic, to exert the most favorable influence over the active stages of its progress. Such medicines are calabar bean, cannabis indica, gelsemium, ergot of rye, bromide of potassium, etc. Dr. Davis' experience is adverse to the use of opium and quinine in the active stages of the disease.

The two lectures on the summer complaints of children are specially worthy of being read by the medical men of this city at this season of the year, as the author's experience of the extraordinary prevalence of these complaints in Chicago during summer is similar to our own.