

AMYL NITRITE IN EPILEPSY.—In Dr. Daniel Clark's last annual report of the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto, very favourable remarks are made as to the controlling influence amyl nitrite exerts over the frequency and violence of epileptic attacks. The remedy was given in half drop doses three times a day. We append a few extracts from Dr. Clark's report on this subject.

"It can be truthfully said of its medicinal effects, that the twenty-five or more persons who have taken it for a longer or shorter time, have almost, without exception, been benefited by it. In some cases the fits have ceased altogether; but of course there is often a periodicity in their invasion, which must be taken into account; and, it is possible, that although the intermissions of freedom from them may be longer than usual, the fits may after a time return with former intensity, or in a modified form. So far this class has been exempt. In other cases the attacks were, under the administration of the drug, as frequent as formerly, but not as severe, nor of the usual duration. Some of the patients tell me, that since taking the medicine, when they feel the fit coming on they can overcome it by a strong effort of the will. A third class still have fits, but much fewer and less severe than formerly. All these cases had been treated in the orthodox way before using this drug, without any decided benefit. Among other formulæ I used the much lauded remedy prescribed by Brown-Sequard in epilepsy.

"It is impossible to say, with any exactitude, what may be the condition of the brain in such typical cases, but in this asylum a large proportion of those afflicted are anæmic. The few of full habit who have been treated with the amyl have not shown that susceptibility to the influence of the drug that the anæmic have done.

"It is my impression that it will not prove of permanent advantage in chronic cases, but if it modifies the fits in such, and reduces the frequency and strength of them in recent cases until nature asserts its powerful supremacy, a great good will be accomplished by this potent agency."

Book Notices.

Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, Toronto, for the year ending 30th September, 1877.

Transactions of Eighth Annual Session of the Medical Society of Virginia.

These transactions are published with the January number of the *Virginia Medical Monthly*, and as usual are a credit to the society from which they emanate. They contain an address from the President, Dr. Cabell, also one on the Study of Medicine, by Dr. Randolph, and reports on Advances in Chemistry, Obstetrics, Practice of Medicine, Hygiene and Public Health. A special Report on Poisoning by Custards and Ice Creams, and one on Epidemic Zymotic Diseases in Animals. These with three Volunteer Papers on Heart-Clots, Bony Union of Intra-capsular Fracture of the Femur, and on Iodoform as a local remedy, together with the report of the Necrological Committee, and of the proceedings of the Society, and a Report of the Discussion on the subject previously selected, viz., Instrumental Labour, form a volume of 190 pages, that will amply repay perusal. The paper on Heart-Clots, by Dr. Martin L. James, contains a full report of three cases with *post mortem*, two of them long existing, that were under his own observation. He also gives an interesting synopsis of our present knowledge on the subject.

KNEADING HÆMORRHOIDS.—Dr. S. W. Garwood, of Fort Scott, Kansas, writes to us as follows: "About two years ago, while riding, my horse threw me, bruising me considerably. Shortly afterward I observed a hæmorrhoid about the size of a cherry which gave me great annoyance for months. I one day seized it between my thumb and finger and, kneading it firmly, obliterated it. Since then I have destroyed numerous piles for others in the same way: sometimes it is necessary to repeat the process several times, but it is always successful."