

health that this was a favourable field for a systematic investigation of the causes of the disease, particularly as to what are its relations, if any, to filth. The subject was thoroughly discussed at some length, and the great desirability of such an investigation was unanimously conceded, but the resources of the board are entirely inadequate for such a house to house inspection as seems essential. The secretary was directed to correspond with the National Board of Health and see what arrangements can be made.

The secretary was also authorized to begin printing the proceedings of the recent sanitary convention at Detroit and Grand Rapids as soon as practicable. The report of the board for 1879 is now in press and will shortly be issued.

Dr. Kellogg, as committee on the disposal of decomposing organic matter, presented a paper on "Decaying Wood a Cause of Disease." He related experiments by Prof. Wm. H. Brewer, confirmed by himself, showing that when green wood was allowed to stand for some time in water the solution decomposes, and gives off very offensive odors. Even when the water was renewed again and again similar results ensued. The paper was prepared with special reference to the practice of putting sawdust in streams and ponds, and it tended to confirm the belief that the practice is frequently productive of malarial and diarrhoeal diseases. Dr. Jacokes, chairman of the committee on such survey, made a statement relative to the desirability of having a sanitary survey of the State, and as to its probable extent and cost.

July 14, the day after the next meeting of the board, it will, if candidates apply, examine them in sanitary science, giving a certificate of merit to those who pass a satisfactory examination. An outline of the plan of these examinations will appear in the forthcoming report for 1879. The next meeting of the board will be July 13.

Books and Pamphlets.

QUARTERLY EPITOME OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY, being an American Supplement to Braithwaite's Retrospect. Part I. Price 75c. \$2.50 per annum. New York: W. A. Townsend.

The publication of a quarterly epitome of American practical medicine and surgery has been for several years in contemplation by the publishers, and we have now before us the first number,

March, 1880. It contains a digest of all the interesting and practical papers published during the past three months in the medical journals of the United States and Canada, together with a copious index and table of contents. In these two works, Townsend's "American Supplement," and Braithwaite's "English Retrospect," the profession will have the cream of the medical literature of both hemispheres.

A MANUAL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. By Edward Nettleship, F.R.C.S. Lecturer on Ophthalmic Surgery in St. Thomas Hospital Medical School. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

Specialism has made great strides in the past few years, and in no department of medicine has it advanced more than in ophthalmology. Hence we have a great influx of books of all sizes, some good and some bad, on this subject. To the former class belongs the little manual of Mr. Nettleship. We do not hesitate to assert that it is the best we have yet seen; the thoroughness of the author's training in that great school of observers, the Moorfields Ophthalmic Hospital, has stood him in good stead in the pages of his little manual. We can particularly commend the chapters on glaucoma and granular ophthalmia; the descriptions are remarkable for their accuracy throughout. The printing and paper are good, but we see considerable room for improvement in the plates.

We can strongly recommend this little book to students and young practitioners as the most reliable we know. We can only regret that the author has not seen fit to give us a larger treatise, the one at present most in use being very considerably behind the age.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

On the 24th of April, Dr. Harry Gove, of St. Andrews, N.B., to Georgie, daughter of Robert Townsend, Esq., of Chancock.

On the 6th of April, S. G. Rutherford, M.D., of Newry Station, in the 38th year of his age.

On the 22nd of April, John Cook, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng., of Sault St. Marie, in the 44th year of his age.

On the 3rd ult. John McGrath, M.D., of Bothwell, in the 27th year of his age.

On the 18th ult. John Turquand, M.D., of Woodstock, Ont., in the 65th year of his age.