

kind of subjects to be treated, and their mode of treatment, it was voted to hold such a convention at Coldwater, Mich., during the coming winter, being invited to do so by Dr. J. H. Bæch of that city. The Secretary was directed to make the necessary preparations.

Invitations were also received to hold Conventions at Pontiac and Detroit, from Rev. D. C. Jacobes and Dr. Lyster, who on behalf of the citizens of their respective cities, promised active efforts for the success of such meetings.

One interesting feature of these meetings is the exhibition of all sorts of sanitary appliances, a kind of sanitary fair where all interested can exhibit or examine articles designed to meet the wants of the people in their efforts for public and private health.

Books and Pamphlets.

ZIEMSEN'S CYCLOPEDIA OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. New York: Wm. Wood & Co. Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

We are in receipt of three volumes of this great work. Vol. VIII on "Diseases of the Chylopoietic system; Vol. XIII, Diseases of the Nervous System, and Vol. XVII, Disturbances of Nutrition and Poisons. The translation from the German of these elaborate treatises, now approaching completion, will supply a great want in our medical literature. It is true that we possess a mass of valuable works from English and American authors, on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, replete with careful observation and clinical instruction, and which for the student and busy practitioner, contain all the information that ordinarily is required. In Germany, however, superior means for carrying on anatomical and pathological enquiries have long existed. These opportunities Dr. Ziemssen and his collaborateurs have most diligently availed themselves of, and as a result, have presented to the medical world a Cyclopædia, remarkable for the deep research, great variety, and importance of the subjects treated of. The various translators have executed their task admirably, and the publishers have spared neither pains nor expense in furnishing volumes remarkable for neatness of binding and beauty of paper and type.

Volume VIII treats of the "Diseases of the Chylopoietic system," with chapters relating to

diseases of the bladder and urethra, and functional affections of the male genital organs; the various contributors being Prof. F. A. Zenker of Erlangen, Prof. H. Von Ziemssen of Munich, Prof. Mosler of Griefswald, Prof. Friedrich of Heidleberg, Dr. Merkel of Nurnberg, Dr. Baer of Munich, Prof. Labert of Vevay, and Dr. Curschmann of Berlin. The subjects treated of are diseases of the œsophagus, peritoneum, spleen, pancreas, bladder, suprarenal capsule, urethra, and male genital organs.

Vol. XIII is devoted exclusively to "Diseases of the Spinal cord, and Medulla Oblongata," by Prof. Erb of Heidleberg. The first one hundred and fifty pages are devoted to an anatomical and physiological introduction to general symptomatology and etiology. Diseases of the membranes of the cord are then taken up, afterwards those of the spinal cord proper *e. g.* hyperæmia, anæmia, spinal apoplexy, wounds of the cord, concussion of the cord, spinal irritation, spinal nervous weakness, slow compression of the cord, myelitis acute and chronic, myelomalacia or softening of the cord, multiple sclerosis, characterized by the development of numerous insulated sclerotic nodules, varying in size and of a chronic, inflammatory nature, scattered irregularly throughout the entire cord, and usually also throughout the entire brain, a disease of youth and middle age; tabes dorsalis or grey degeneration of the posterior columns,—the progressive locomotor ataxy of Duchenne, spasmodic spinal paralysis, the sclerosis of the lateral columns of Charcot, the main symptoms being paresis and spasm, hemiplegia and hemi-paraplegia spinalis, including traumatic injuries, inflammation, compression, sclerosis, tumors and syphilis; polio-myelitis anterior acute, or acute inflammation of the grey anterior columns, first described by Jacob Von Heine, subsequently confirmed by Cornil, Prevost, Vulpian, Lockhart Clarke, Charcot, and others, and polio-myelitis anterior chronic, or chronic inflammation of the grey anterior horns, first pointed out by Duchenne. The latter disease is associated with complete flaccidity of the muscles and loss of their reflex excitability, followed by rapidly progressive atrophy in the bulk of the paralyzed muscles. Acute ascending paralysis described by Landry in 1859, is clinically characterized by a motor paralysis generally beginning in the lower extremities, and spreading rapidly over the trunk to the upper extremities.