

doses given by Dr. Macdonald would possess little power. He had been in the habit of administering it in ten grain doses.

Dr. Graham related the history of W. L., æt. 45 : Hotel keeper for five years. Seven years ago he gave up hotel life and worked hard on his farm ; never had ague ; was very ill with measles at twenty years of age. Six years ago he had a severe illness. It began by his feeling sleepy, dull and weak. No appetite ; nausea ; took to his bed ; jaundice set in and remained during his illness, a period of three months. He had a burning sensation in the soles of his feet. Before the jaundice set in he was very pale. He gradually recovered strength and remained fairly well until last March. He then began to feel the same train of symptoms ; sleepiness, dulness, weakness, pallor ; no jaundice. He took to bed on April 25th, and remained there until the latter part of August. He was unable to retain food, much emaciated, constipation very troublesome ; at one time three weeks intervened without a passage from the bowels. His temperature was at or over 102° for weeks. During the latter part of his illness, he took a fancy for buttermilk which he retained on his stomach. Recovery slowly followed. He is now for the third time experiencing a recurrence of the same set of symptoms. A diagnosis of pernicious anæmia was suggested.

Dr. Carson related a case of hæmatemesis which he had treated without styptics. Noticing that she had the pulse of high arterial tension, he had given her bromide of potassium to dilate the capillaries, and gray powder to act on the bowels. On a second occasion nitrite of amyl proved equally efficacious in relieving her.

#### MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Reported for the LANCET.

The annual meeting of the State Board of Health was held in Lansing, April 8, 1884.

Dr. Vaughan read a paper prepared by Dr. C. P. Pengra, on the "Purification of water by freezing." As a result of a series of elaborate experiments conducted in the University laboratory, Dr. Pengra found, that, contrary to the general impression, freezing does not render water pure. Ordinarily he found less infusoria and bacteria in ice than in the water from which it was frozen, but the ice contained them in numbers sufficient

to preclude its use. In harvesting ice the greatest care should be taken to get it from a pure source.

It was decided to print the names and addresses of the health officers in Michigan, as soon as full returns were received. The number in the State is nearly 1,400. A new edition of the document on the prevention and restriction of scarlet fever was ordered to be printed. It was also decided to publish facts relative to several outbreaks of trichinosis in Michigan.

A resolution was adopted recommending Congress to pass a bill, providing for the prevention of the introduction of infectious diseases into the United States, and for procuring information relating to climatic and other conditions affecting the public.

The Board discussed the merits of several textbooks on physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcohol on the human system, and approved for use in the schools Martin's "Human Body," briefer course, second edition, containing special chapters on alcohol and other narcotics ; and Dr. Eli F. Brown's "Alcohol : Its effects on body and mind."

#### OXFORD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Oxford Medical Association was held in Woodstock on the 10th of April, 1884, Dr. A. McLay, President, in the chair ; Dr. A. B. Welford, secretary. Motions of condolence were passed and ordered to be sent to the widows of the late Drs. Coad and James.

The next regular meeting will be held in Ingersoll, on the second Thursday in July.

#### Selected Articles.

##### OPERATION IN INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION.

Dr. Macleod in the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for March, says :—That of the six most important sources of obstruction—viz., intussusception, loops, bands, &c., twists, simple and malignant stricture, and internal strangulation by pouches, the three first are most frequently found in the right groin. Simple stricture is also, in a certain proportion of cases, situated there ; while malignant stricture is far more commonly seated in or below the left groin ; and internal strangulation has no special region where it can, in the majority of cases, be