

THE one hundred and twenty-eighth annual session of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania will open on Monday, Oct. 2nd. The introductory address will be delivered by the Provost, Dr. Pepper. The matriculating class of this year will enter upon a graded course extending over four years.

DEATH OF DR. VIDAL.—We regret to announce the death of Doctor Emile Vidal, the distinguished dermatologist of Paris, which occurred on the 16th of June, 1893. Doctor Vidal was for many years connected with the Hospital St. Louis, and was at the time of his death one of the editors of the *Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*.

He has enriched dermatology by numerous important contributions, and was an active worker in our specialty up to the time of his death.—*Journal of Cutaneous Diseases*.

DR. FRANK J. THORNBURY, of Buffalo, reports a death from nitrous oxide gas. Four gallons of the gas were administered by a dentist for the extraction of four teeth. The patient soon began to show signs of embarrassed breathing, and the pulse became rapid. Artificial respiration was resorted to; lower extremities elevated; nitro-glycerine administered hypodermically, and ammonia applied to the nostrils. Patient seemed to rally for a short time, but unconsciousness continued, pulse became more rapid and feeble, and the heart's action finally ceased.

DIGITAL COMPRESSION IN THE VOMITING OF ANESTHESIA.—Dr. Bernard Joos describes a method for the control of the hiccough and vomiting during anesthesia which he has found successful for several years. It consists in digital compression of the phrenic and vagus nerve against the sternal end of the clavicle. His method is as follows: As soon as singultus or vomiting begins, the etherizer presses the last phalanx of the left thumb firmly over the sternal end of the clavicle, the body of the thumb being parallel with the clavicle and the hand resting on the chest. The pressure is made with the radial side of the thumb. The vomiting stops at once, as a rule. If needed, or more convenient, the pressure may be made on the right side. Pressure is continued for a few moments to prevent a return of the vomiting. He recommends the trial of this method in cases of seasickness.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

THE proportion of the defective and sickly among school children has been shown in a striking way by a committee of the London Charity Organization Society. After two years of labor they publish the results of an investigation into the physical condition of 50,000 school children, all being children of the poor. It was found that of the 50,027 children, no fewer than 9,186, or 18.3 per cent., were defective in some way or other. Examining these 9,186 still further, we find that 5,851 showed defects of development; 5,487 presented abnormal nerve signs; 2,003 were delicate, pale, and thin; 3,679 were reported by the teachers as being dull in school; 1,473 showed eye defects; 67 were deaf; 239 were crippled, paralyzed, maimed, or deformed;