

furnace, so that all gases from the cremator during combustion are thoroughly purified and deodorised before they reach the chimney, and thus emerge into the atmosphere. The cremator has already been at work for about three years, and continues to give entire satisfaction. The management of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption have now adopted the system, and we understand that several other hospitals are likely to fit up one of these cremators in the near future.

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REGULATING THE SALE OF PATENT MEDICINES.—A bill has been introduced into the New York State Legislature giving the Board of Health power to regulate the sale of all patent medicines. This is a wise measure, and one that would promote the public good.

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INFLUENZA is very prevalent in England. Forty members of Parliament, and fifty members of the staff, and one-third of the employees of the Bank of England, are down with it.

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### Book Notices.

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*A System of Surgery.* By American authors. Edited by FREDERIC S. DENNIS, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York; President of the American Surgical Association, etc., assisted by JOHN S. BILLINGS, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L., Deputy Surgeon-General, U.S.A. To be completed in four imperial octavo vols., containing about 900 pages, each with index. Profusely illustrated with figures in colors

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The title of the first "System of Surgery," written distinctively by American authors, will raise high anticipations of merit, and this presumption, at once favorable and critical, will find confirmation in the names of editors and contributors. As the foremost men in any profession are always the busiest, success in securing an expression of their knowledge indicates in this instance an appreciation of the prestige to be derived from joint authorship in a work planned on lines certain to gain for it an enormous circle of readers.

The profession is greatly enriched by the fortunate circumstances which thus place at its command a complete exposition of modern surgery bearing the credentials of unquestioned authority. The eminent position conceded to American surgeons throughout the world makes a representative work a debt due to the dignity of the country, and in point of time it is a necessity, owing to the vast progress witnessed by recent years. Science is, however, not bounded by geographical lines, and the material now presented is international in the sense of containing the most advanced surgical knowledge of the globe.

For the execution of such a purpose the facilities existing on this