

convulsions of nature." The reports of other physicians to the State Board of Health enumerated the same effects as those mentioned in Dr. Porcher's.

NERVE SETS AND COLORS.—The Young-Helmholtz theory of color sensation may be briefly stated thus: The retina contains three sets of nerve-elements, each set of which is capable of responding to but one of the three colors—red, green and violet. These are the primary colors, and our perception of other shades is due to the simultaneous excitation, to greater or less degrees of intensity, of the different nerve sets. Herr Frithiof Holmgren has been experimenting upon the eye, and the results are in entire accord with the theory. Red, green and indigo-violet were unchanged. Yellow appeared red, green or colorless as it fell upon different sets. Blue became green and violet. A yellow ray never appears yellow unless it falls simultaneously upon at least two sets; while a red, green or violet ray may be perfectly perceived, even when it does not cover one set. These results call to mind the discovery announced last year in this Journal, that in the surface of the body there are three sets of nerves, one which responds to impressions of touch, another to impressions of cold, and another to impressions of heat. Are the nerve sets in the eye finer forms of those in the body? Do those nerve sets which respond to heat become in the eye those which respond to red, the color of the heat end of the spectrum, and those which respond to cold in the skin, those which respond to violet—the heatless color—in the eye? Is there an analogy between the sensation of touch and that of a green color?

IMITATION OF MAGNETIC AND ELECTRIC CURRENTS.—Prof. Bjercknes, of Christiania, has found out that little drums made to vibrate by means of air pulses sent into them, will attract or repel each other according as they vibrate in like or unlike phase. When the diaphragms approached each other, or receded from each other simultaneously, they were attracted, and when they chased each other to and fro, they were repelled.