

to it should not be sent to school too early. He gives two excellent lectures on the different forms of cystitis, their etiology, pathology, symptomatology, and treatment; the different methods of examining the bladder and urethra, and of applying remedies. He utters a well-timed caution in regard to extreme dilatation of the urethra, an operation in which there is great danger of lacerating the canal, and which will sometimes occur to the most skilful operator even when every effort is made to prevent it. It has been found that the tissues sometimes give way suddenly where the operator was proceeding carefully, and that permanent incontinence is the result, for even restoration of the urethra *does not* restore the retaining power of the bladder. Under these circumstances, it is well that caution should be observed, for since Mr. Heath proposed rapid dilatation of the urethra for irritability of the bladder, that practice has been rather too common. It is only a few months since we saw a fine young woman who was invalided for life by an attempt at rapid dilatation, which resulted in complete destruction of the whole length of the urethra, with incontinence of urine, and violent vesical tenesmus, under the influence of which the general health was completely broken down. But the whole book is worthy of its distinguished author. It treats of a class of diseases met with every day, and about which little is to be found in the ordinary text-books on gynecology or general surgery. We heartily commend it to the profession.

*Physics of the Infectious Diseases.* By C. A. LOGAN, A.M., M.D. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

This is a very pretty little book of 212 pages, being beautifully printed on nice paper, made up of the author's observations and reflections during a residence of four years in the capacity of American minister to Chili, treats of a great variety of subjects, considering the size of the book, and while some of his views are decidedly novel and open to criticism, a good deal can be said in support of others. Under the head of "Physical Aspects of

the Pacific Coast," he discusses the subject of earthquakes and their relation to thunderstorms, the influence of mountains on climate, the subject and source of wind and rain, the source and property of ozone, the forces of nature, &c., &c.

Then he speaks of its medical aspects, and gives some very interesting information in regard to the sanitary condition of the cities of that region, whereby it appears, that, notwithstanding the utter neglect of all sanitary rules, there is an immunity from zymotic diseases that is truly wonderful. "Ravaging epidemics, afflicting other parts of the world with such great mortality, are entirely unknown by like results in any portion of that region, with the exception of small-pox," which is almost always present, and seems to have lost its identity in some respects, as vaccination affords no protection against it, many persons taking the disease three or even four times, although it remains true to its type in mortality, which sometimes reaches fifty per cent., but the prevalence of the general class of acute infectious diseases is inversely to the electric energy of the locality. The author says that venomous reptiles and insects have no natural existence throughout the whole Pacific coast, and Quito, a city of 40,000 inhabitants, with the country for many miles around, nearly under the equator, at an elevation of 10,000 feet above the sea, is one of the healthiest places on the globe, consumption, dysentery, and fevers being almost unknown. It should therefore be a choice place to live in, were it not for the "*terremoto*," which have a rather familiar way of shaking people up, for he tells us he has a record of the phenomena of three hundred earthquakes that occurred during three successive years; but, after all, it is simply a matter of taste or choice between scorpions, lizards, and snakes, on the one hand, and earthquakes, with their attendant phenomena, on the other. The author's theory that the earthquake is the result of electrical or magnetic disturbance, and can be absolutely prevented by levelling down all the mountains of the world to a height permitting of an unobstructed and regular annual rainfall in its various parts, will probably be somewhat criticised by scientists, and yet he gives some