

Physicians, Edinburgh. In the year 1851, while acting as Vice President of the Medical Society of London, he was selected as the Lettsonian Professor of Medicine for the term 1851 and 1852, and delivered three admirable lectures, the foundation of his future celebrity, in connection with the treatment of diseases of the brain and mind. The best energies of his great intellect have been devoted almost incessantly since to its elucidation, so that he has left this world with the well-earned reputation of a philanthropist, a scientist of the first order, and professional expert of great knowledge and of undoubted probity and veracity. He was a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

S. W. BUTLER, M.D., of Philadelphia, died January 6, aged 40. He was the founder of the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*, in which, as in other branches of the literary department of medicine, he exhibited great energy and industry. The cause of his death was pulmonary consumption.

MEDICAL ITEMS AND NEWS.

WAR ON POTATOES.

Mulder, the celebrated physiologist, declares that the excessive use of potatoes among the poorer classes, and of coffee and tea by the higher ranks, is the cause of indolence among nations.

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DEATHS FROM CHOLERA are estimated to have taken place in Hungary, in the year ending Nov. 1, 1873.

INCIPIENT ABORTION has been arrested promptly by chloral hydrate.

The difficulty of getting rid of enuresis in young people is sometimes very great. In regard to remedy, led by an article in the *Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift*, resorted to syrup of the iodide of iron, frequently through the day, with every success.

TWENTY dollars a day is the amount of fine incurred by the law of Nova Scotia, going in force on the first of May, for practising medicine without being registered.

A BAD CASE.

The following lucid statement of his case was lately forwarded by a patient to his medical attendant:—

“I have a very bad stomach and sickness about my hart and great heat rising up true me and sweating in my face and at the but of the troth (throat) alys stifling me and all the trouble of the wourrid in it and verry bound in the bouls and a pain in my head, and i douse always be incline to discharge my stomach, and i never can, and i have often a great griping and a great bast (?) in my lung, and i dose bi belshing up every minut.”

REVIEWS.

The Sphygmograph: Its Physiological and Pathological indications, with two hundred and ninety illustrations. By EDGAR HOLDEN, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia, Lindsay & Blakiston, 1874.

The basis of this monograph was an essay to which was awarded the Stevens triennial prize by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, in April, 1873. The views advanced in the previous work have in the present been somewhat modified and amplified by the improvement of facilities subsequently enjoyed by the author for more accurate and extended observation with the instrument in the diseases where it is especially useful. Amongst these facilities Dr. Holden mentions his position as medical adviser to one of the largest life insurance companies of the United States, and as clinical physician for diseases of the chest to St. Michael's Hospital of, we suppose, Newark, New Jersey, as this is his place of residence.

In the first part of his book Dr. Holden treats us to a description of the instrument, together with some general considerations regarding its mechanism, and asserts that to Vierordt is due the suggestion of its applicability as an aid to the physician. Professor Marey's instrument was the one with which the author made his earlier observations, and he describes and figures it, giving its inventor a due meed of prominence, as indeed he must always deserve in any work on the Sphygmograph. Dr. Holden has however, considerably modified, and claims to have materially improved, the instrument, and it is with his own instrument that all his later observations have been made. The first part of the book is