

comes very serious, although he had never seen death ensue from such causes.

The proper cause of such symptoms was not for some time suspected, but was thought to be an impure carbolic acid spray, the use of impure chloroform, or fumes from a gas stove. Investigations in each case gave negative results. Finally, it was proved that the evil results were due to the decomposition of the chloroform in the presence of the naked flame and the formation of free hydrochloric acid. Dr. Martin thinks it is the presence of this hydrochloric acid that produces the irritating cough, the acrid odor, and the other unpleasant symptoms before described. The character of the flame does not appear to signify, as similar effects have been observed in the presence of gas and oil flames. The bad effects are not, as a rule, observed until the chloroform has been administered half an hour. The fact remains, however, that chloroform is safer under such circumstances than ether; but we should remember that when chloroform is administered for any length of time it is desirable to have as large a room as possible, and free ventilation.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We hope the next meeting of this association, to be held at Ottawa, September 21 to 23 inclusive, will be largely attended. The president, Dr. J. L. Bray, has shown a commendable zeal in his preparations for the event, and has been cordially assisted by the secretary and other officers. It is expected that a very important question will come up for discussion with reference to the place of meeting in the future. It is considered by many that the peripatetic system has seriously interfered with the success of the organization. There is, of course, nothing new in such consideration; but some are so strongly impressed with the gravity of the situation that they will propose to make a radical change, and, in the future, hold all the meetings in the same city. If such views prevail, it is likely that Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, will be the place selected.

Mosso has determined as the results of a series of experiments that the brain is the warmest part of the body.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS.

The fifth annual meeting of this association will be held in St. Louis, Sept. 20, 21, and 22, under the presidency of Dr. A. Vander Veer, of Albany. It is unfortunate that it takes place at the same time as the meeting of the Canadian Association at Ottawa; and, as a consequence, the attendance of the Canadian members will not be large. We earnestly hope the mistake will not be repeated in future years, as our American brethren have been more than kind to those from Canada who have had the pleasure of attending any of the meetings of this young but vigorous society. Our able and genial friend, Dr. W. Warren Potter, of Buffalo, the indefatigable secretary, tells us this year's meeting will be a grand success.

Book Reviews.

Book on the Physician Himself, and Things that Concern His Reputation and Success. By D. W. Cathell, M.D. New tenth edition (author's last revision). Thoroughly revised, enlarged, and rewritten. In one handsome royal octavo volume. 348 pages. Bound in extra cloth. Price, postpaid, \$2 net. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co., publishers, 1231 Filbert Street. Toronto: J. A. Carveth & Co.

This is not only a useful book, but also a very readable one. It gives the general physician good advice with reference to many points, but especially in regard to choosing a location and earning a reputation by honorable methods. The author considers that it is as necessary for the most skilful physician to possess a certain amount of professional tact and business capacity as it is for a ship to have a rudder. He tells us that, as physicians, we should make skill in preventing disease our central thought and our chief reliance, and, as men and brethren, should discharge each and every duty to our great Master's entire family, at all times and in all places, with fidelity and honor. The work has met with remarkable favor in the United States, and we see no reason why it should not prove quite as acceptable to Canadian physicians.