

Frogs, (*Rana fontenalis*) 1st heard, 20th April. Shad (*Alosa procerabilis*) 1st caught, 10th May. Fire-flies, (*Lampyrus corusca*) 1st seen, 24th May. Snow Birds (*Plectrophanes nivalis*) 1st seen, 3rd November. Crows did not winter here.

Lilac in full leaf, 9th May. *Plum Tree* in flower, 9th May. *Dandelion* in flower, 12th May. *Currant* in leaf, 9th May. *Gooseberry* in leaf, 9th May. *Wild Strawberry* ripe, 12th June.

OBSERVATORY, ISLE JESUS, 7th January, 1861.

REVIEW DEPARTMENT.

ART. IV.—*A Practical Treatise on the Ætiology, Pathology, and treatment of the congenital malformations of the Rectum and Anus.* By WILLIAM BODENHAMER, M.D. Illustrated by XVI plates and exemplified by CCLXXXVII cases. New York: Samuel S. & W. Wood. Montreal: G. Dawson & Son, 1860. 8vo. pp. 368.

The author of this volume has done an essential service to the obstetrician, surgeon and physician, in laying before them, and condensing in monographic form, one of the least understood, most curious, and interesting classes of malformations, the object and scope of the work being to prove that the unfortunate subjects of them should by no means be left to die unaided, but that although that result is too common even after the best performed operative procedures for their relief, yet that it should be by no means neglected, success having frequently followed where there appeared to exist not the slightest hopes of it.

We remark that the author has done a good service, because, with few exceptions, little has been achieved in this almost neglected department of Obstetrico-surgical science. It is true that the list of writers who have detailed cases of these malformations is comparatively large, those who have endeavoured to generalize the facts garnered exceedingly few. Papindorf who wrote in 1783 "*A Treatise on Congenital Malformations of the Anus*," attempted a system of classification of those abnormalities, yet imperfect, though it is, it for many years served its object. Observations on the subject will be met with in various surgical works, but the object of the writers has rather been to investigate the best means of establishing or forming an artificial anus, than the peculiarities of those singular deviations which had dictated imperiously that necessity. Hence we regard the work before us a peculiarly valuable and interesting one. While the author has laboured with the greatest industry in collecting and giving all the known and recorded cases of these congenital deviations from normal structure, he has done more, he has generalized all that is known upon the matter, and has produced a volume worthy of occupying a distinguished position in the library of every physician.

The volume contains the history of 387 cases of these interesting malforma-