

poisoning, and metallic poisoning, including poisoning trades.' The author accounts for the late appearance of this volume by the delay in the receipt of the report of the Commission on Vaccination. It is better that the volume should have been delayed than that such a valuable report be excluded, as it is worth a great deal to have such a record for reference. We feel that the publishers will meet with a hearty sale at the hands of the medical profession.

A NEW STORY, BY LYDSTON.—Every doctor who has heard Dr. Frank Lydston, of Chicago, tell one of his stories in his inimitable way, or has read "Over the Hookah," will be delighted to learn that a new story by Lydston will soon appear in the *Tri-State Medical Journal*, of St. Louis. It is entitled "The Doctor's Croesus—the Tale of a Generous Patient." It is of great interest, and will be fully illustrated. Physicians who are not subscribers to the *Tri-State Medical Journal* can secure the numbers containing the story by sending twenty-five cents to the Business Manager, 3509 Franklin Avenue, St. Louis.

COLUMBUS CITY (IND.) DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC.

THE literature of diphtheria has become so voluminous, that it is almost impossible for one to become conversant with it. The importance of the subject shall be my excuse for attempting to add anything to it. These remarks were made by Dr. Geo. T. MacCoy, Health Officer, Columbus, Indiana, before the Indiana State Medical Society, at Terre Haute, last May. The doctor had personally observed one hundred and ninety cases of diphtheria during the epidemic. In speaking of the epidemic, he said: "During the last decade, many of you who are present to-day have watched with tender solicitude the eventful gestation of 'the Germ Theory of Disease.' From the moment of its conception to the hour of its nativity, you have carefully noted the gradual development of the embryo to the period of quickening and establishment of the fetal circulation, carefully and anxiously listened to the first sounds of the fetal heart, and watched every symptom in the process of preparation for the hour of final trial. The gestation was long and tedious, but the end came at last. The babe is born; it is a lusty infant, and was christened, 'The Germ Fact.' The legitimacy of the offspring is acknowledged by you all."

The Doctor reviewed the appearance, course and progress of the epidemic. It moved in a north-easterly direction, striking Columbus with great force late in August, 1896. Eleven cases appeared during the first forty-eight hours. These were apparently so distinct one from the other, that they appeared like so many sporadic cases.

From this the epidemic spread, in spite of all efforts to arrest it, sixty-five cases developing during the following month. This was a year of political agitation, and each political rally was followed by a fresh outbreak of the disease. Mild cases and