

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. Reynolds, Brockville. The communication on "Medical Defamation" will be inserted in the March number. It was crowded out this month.

MEDICAL NEWS.

A contract for the erection of the third Massachusetts State Lunatic Asylum, at Northampton, Mass., has just been completed for the sum of about \$165,000. The edifice is to be 516 feet in length, and will cover an acre and a quarter of ground.—Baron Humboldt has lately celebrated the eighty-sixth anniversary of his birth-day. Notwithstanding his great age, he still continues his labors.—The ravages of Cholera in some parts of Italy during the months of September and October were truly frightful. In the Duchy of Parma there were 13,372 cases, including 8,020 deaths; in Modena and Pezzio 11,396 cases, and 6,566 deaths; in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany 49,618 cases, and 25,941 death; total 40,527 dead. If to these be added the mortality of Lombardy, exceeding 50,000, and a similar number in the Roman States, the total will show no fewer than 150,000 victims.—M. Ricord has received from the King of Sardinia the orders of St. Maurice and St. Lazare; and from the King of Greece the order of St. Savior, the only two governments in Europe which had not already conferred titles on the well-known Prof.—The new State Idiot Asylum at Syracuse, New York, which was lately opened, is in a flourishing and prosperous condition. This institution now contains about eighty patients, all of whom are instructed in reading, writing, and cyphering as far as their constitutional and intellectual strength will admit.—Orfila once being examined as an "expert," in a capital trial, was asked by the President whether he could tell what quantity of arsenic was requisite to kill a fly. He replied, "Certainly, M. le President; but I must know beforehand the age of the fly, its sex, its temperament, its conditions and habits of body, whether married or single, widow or maiden, widower or bachelor. When satisfied on these points I can answer your question."—For every 100,000 individuals in France there are 108 persons blind, 82 deaf and dumb, 125 insane, 118 goitrous, 125 hump-backed, 25 having lost one or both arms, 32 having lost one or both legs, and 62 with club-foot.—Dr. Radcliffe had an altercation with Sir Godfrey Kneller the painter, who lived in the next house to him. Kneller had some rare exotic plants, which Radcliffe's servants injured, passing through a door by which the gardens of the two houses communicated. Kneller, having borne this annoyance until it became intolerable, sent word to the doctor that he should be compelled to lock up the door. Radcliffe in a great rage answered, that "Sir Godfrey might do what he saw fit in relation to the door, so he did but refrain from painting it." "Did my very good friend Dr. Radcliffe say so?" cried Kneller, "Go back to him, and, after present ag my services to him, tell him that I can take anything from him but his physic."—Legal proceedings are about to be commenced against one of the most eminent accoucheurs in London for the unjustifiable use of the speculum, and cauterizing the uterus of a young unmarried lady.—Two men at Lydnus, Gloucestershire, undertook, for a wager, to drink a pint and a half of rum each, which they did while in a state of intoxication. The result was death in both cases, the dead bodies presenting a shocking appearance, the face, tongue and throat being greatly swollen.—Dr. M. Hall has been recently elected corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences (Institute of France), in the section of medicine and surgery, in place of M. Foderé deceased. The other candidates were Prof. Rokitsansky of Vienna; Prof. Christison of Edinburgh; M. Riberi of Turin; M. Chelius of Heidelberg. Of forty-one votes Dr. Hall received thirty-nine.—Newspaper Pathology.—Baron Paskiewitch, viceroy of Poland, has been very ill of what appears common anthrax. The King of Prussia and Emperor of Austria sent their respective family physicians, Dr. Oppolzer of Vienna being paid, it is said, one hundred guineas a-day during his visit at Warsaw. Symptoms of gastritis made their appearance, or gastro-enteritis, and the correspondents of the London newspapers have varied their bulletins day by day from ulcer of the stomach to abscess of the sacrum, cancer of the bowels, &c., till at last the *Morning Herald* of the 19th, so ingeniously arranged matters, that Prince Paskiewitch was very ill of a large carbuncular anthrax growing on the stomach!