

sentence on its demerits. We remember having once read a very harsh review of a work which to-day stands high in the estimation of profound scholars, rushed into type before ever the book had reached the critic; but what of that? he had seen transatlantic condemnations of the work, and he felt pretty sure that his own contribution to the fund would be graciously accepted.

Dr. Logan repudiates the germ theory of disease, but he seems not to hesitate over the alternative one of *fermentation*. This is very nearly a distinction without a solid difference. It is merely the substitution of a vegetative, for an animate process of propagation, and so far as preventive means are concerned, we cannot see that it at all lightens the anxiety or the labour of the surgeon or physician.

Should Dr. Logan find the appreciation of his book by the profession, such as to entice him to a second edition, we would entreat him to enlarge his observations on the valuable concrete matter, relating to the climate and diseases of the South American Pacific Coast. What he has written in this relation is truly valuable, and we cannot pardon him for his penurious curtailment of so instructive and interesting a subject. In the event, however, of re-appearance, we would venture to suggest that the book will lose nothing in merit, or discreet prestige, should the author make free use of the pruning knife in cutting out a few rather tall metaphoric phrases, which are scarcely consistent with classic medical literature. This is perhaps an American national frailty, or a sort of bacterial germ,—(we beg pardon,—a quasi-fermentative), impermeation,—the parental source of which is most probably in the same region with the zymotic inspirations of 4th of July eloquence.

After all, we must say, Dr. Logan's book is well worth the labour of perusal, and if all who read it appreciate it as we have done, they will wish it had not been so short where it is not long enough, and pardon the length where it might have been shortened.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY for May 1879.

This is the first number of the fifteenth volume of this interesting and popular monthly. It opens with an article from the pen of the late Prof. Daniel Vaughan on "The Origin of Worlds," which is a masterly presentation of the view that the planets like the living beings which inhabit them have their periods of growth, maturity and decay, to be followed by the birth of new ones. This is the third of a series on astronomical subjects, now unfortunately cut short by the death of the author, under circumstances of suffering and privation rarely paralleled in a civilized community. Then follows an article on "The Growth of the Will" by Prof. Alexander Bain, in reply to an

attack by Prof. Payton Spence; one on "New Guinea and its Inhabitants," by A. R. Wallver, Clews on Natural History by Andrew Wilson; Sensation and Sensiferous Organs by Prof. Huxley.

PHYSIOLOGICAL THERAPEUTICS.—In our notice of Dr. Poole's work in the last issue, the following paragraph, just preceding the last, was accidentally omitted. "In regard to the difficulties urged against the present theory, the author gives the action of alcohol as an instance: a glass or two of spirits usually causes a degree of vascular dilatation as seen in flushing of the face. On the accepted theory, arterial dilatation as seen in flushing, blushing, etc., is the effect of vaso-motor paralysis. Therefore alcohol, to produce flushing, must act as a paralyzer of the vascular nerves. But alcohol in such quantity is universally and properly regarded as a stimulant, which temporarily increases nerve force and certainly does not paralyze it. The accepted vaso-motor theory, the author maintains, is quite inconsistent with the facts of this simple case. He gives many illustrations of similar purport. The author is to be congratulated on the able manner in which he has advocated his theory, and placed it before the profession. It is not only very ingenious, but also well sustained by argumentative and cogent reasoning. The work also embodies several very important points, other than the vaso-motor theory. The opinions of the author are not wholly gratuitous and unsupported. He quotes extracts in support of his theory from many leading and recent authorities.

CATALOGUE OF MAMMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES AND FISHES OF CANADA. Collected and classified by A. M. Ross, M.D., Montreal, Que.

A catalogue of the Flora of Canada by the same author also nearly ready.

Births, Marriages & Deaths.

In Toronto on the 17th of April, the wife of Dr. R. B. Nevitt, of a son.

At Londonderry, N. S., March 31st, the wife of Dr. James Kerr, surgeon, of a daughter.

At Shediac, on the 10th ult., Dr. R. Botsford, son of Hon. Judge Botsford, to Queen, eldest daughter of Lewis Carvell, Esq.

On the 4th ult., Martha J. Douglas wife of Dr. Thos. T. S. Harrison, of Selkirk aged 35 years.