

that according to Dr. Dumont, stone of the bladder is almost unknown in Normandy. This he attributes to the use of cider in place of wine and beer. Cider, he maintains, is therefore an excellent remedy for gravel; also for obesity and certain forms of gastritis.

ORGANISMS AND DISEASE.—The *British Medical Journal* says that it is very easy to find organisms in any disease if the proper methods of preparation be observed, but is very much more difficult, and far more important, to establish that there is any connection between the organism and the disease.

BRITISH DIPLOMAS.—Dr. H. H. Graham (Trin.) has been admitted to the M.R.C.S. Eng., and Dr. F. H. Sawers (Trin.) to the L.R.C.P. Lond. Dr. D. G. Inksetter (McGill) has obtained the double qualification, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin.

THE PREVENTION OF BED-SORES.—A solution of gutta-percha in chloroform (four to thirty) is useful to protect the skin over projecting bones and to prevent bed-sores in wasting diseases.

TRIPLETS.—Dr. J. Sutherland, of Bedeque, P. E. I., reports a case of triplets. The children weighed 6, 6½ and 7¼ lbs. respectively. Mother and children all doing well.

Books and Pamphlets.

CLINICAL LECTURES ON MENTAL DISEASES. By T. S. Clouston, M.D., Edin., F.R.C.P., E., Physician Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane, etc. Philadelphia: H. C. Lea's, Son & Co. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

This is decidedly the most practically useful book on mental diseases we have ever yet seen, and we are convinced that every attentive reader of its rich and highly instructive pages will dissent from the first line of the author's preface in which, with that modesty which is the usual accompaniment of genuine merit, he premises that "Another book on Mental Disease almost needs an apology." It is indeed too true that a few, perhaps too many, books devoted to this subject have needed an apology, not only in the preface, but

also at the close. Dr. Clouston's book was much needed, therefore it stands in no need of "an apology." It was needed by the entire body of the medical profession, and to students of medicine it will prove a real treasure. It is not a mere didactic treatise, dealing in puzzling abstractions, and interlarded with profitless speculations. It "holds the mirror up to nature," and shows insanity in its multitudinous and marvellous images, with a fidelity of depiction which cannot fail to command the commendation of every reader who has had large opportunity of observing the mental and physical phenomena of the disease. It may, in truth be styled an assemblage of pen-photographs, every one of which is true to life, without the failure of a single lineament, or the distortion of a single feature; nothing deserving of notice has been omitted in the description of cases, and nothing of surplusage has been daubed over them, and the book has one merit, which indeed we had every reason to expect; it is that of perfect and honourable candour. Dr. Clouston has not been afraid to impart valuable instruction by instancing his own mistakes or failures. This is a virtue much to be commended, for it is far too much desiderated, both in medical teachers and medical writers. A sea-coast studded with wrecks, may be safer to the navigator than a strange and smiling sea with hidden reefs. The young practitioner who loses his first patient receives, perhaps, the best lesson he has ever had, whilst he whose success has been due to the resisting vitality of his patient, which has triumphed over the combined force of the disease and its erroneous treatment, has made a very perilous start. Of the printing of this book, no eulogy could be too high. We wish we could say the like of its illustrated plates. The student must not imagine that they are fair average representations of the morbid anatomy of the brains of the insane. They are no doubt faithful representations of special extraordinary cases, the colouring of which has, perhaps, been rather over-done by an over-zealous artist.

BRAIN EXHAUSTION. By J. Leonard Cornell, M.D. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Toronto: Hart & Co.

This is a short octavo of 28 chapters. It might have been made a more generally useful book had the writer more largely eschewed medical termino-