

TAXIS IN HERNIA.—Dr. De Gros Clarke surgeon to St. Thomas Hospital writes to the *British Medical Journal* of April 18th, 1872, in reference to an article which appeared on the above subject in the issue of the 10th of February, and which was copied into the last number of the *CANADA LANCET*, strongly deprecating such practice, as being very dangerous and altogether opposed to sound practice. He believes that much mischief may be done by violent attempts to reduce strangulated hernia and strongly advocates gentleness in the operation of taxis and an early resort to herniotomy if the former fails.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS—We learn from the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, that an epidemic outbreak of this disease, sometimes known as "spotted fever," has made its appearance in Buffalo during the past winter and continues with unabated frequency. The health officer's report for March shows thirty deaths from this disease alone, although the death rate is not as great as has occurred in many other places where it has prevailed epidemically. The cause of the prevalence of this disease is not well understood. Dr. B. W. Richardson's suggestion that it may be due to the consumption of diseased grain after the manner of ergotism, is worthy of consideration. The treatment which has been most effectual consists in the application of cold to the head and spine, by means of ice bags, hot applications to the extremities and the internal administration of opium or morphine, carefully watched. Quinine has been found useful in aborting the attack when given early. Ergot and belladonna have also been used in combination, but with equivocal benefit. The general treatment consists in the use of the hot bath, generous and nutritious diet, and the use of stimulants when necessary.

BOOK NOTICES.

EARTH AS A TOPICAL APPLICATION IN SURGERY.—By Addison Hewson, M. D., Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. Lindsay & Blakiston. Toronto: Adam Stevenson & Co.

The author gives a record of about ninety cases that have been treated by the topical application of earth. The earth used