

will be found useful by those engaged in busy strife, when they wish, in haste, to refresh the memory on matters pertaining to this captivating branch of science. We like the book, because it treats so largely of our own Canadian species, and we think it is thus calculated to beget in the minds of our native students an interest in Zoology which the more comprehensive works will fail to do. It adds greatly to the interest of any subject we may study, if we can pick up the illustrations during our morning walks or holiday rambles; and this little book is just the thing to stick in the pocket for a day's ramble on the beach, or over the mountain, or by the less romantic mud-hole of our country roads. It gives very clear directions for preserving and collecting specimens, and these are, we think, of peculiar value to the novice. The work is divided into chapters on Physiological Zoology, Classification, Descriptions of the Radiata, Mollusca, and Articulata, with a classification of Vertebrata; and all are treated in so short and clear a manner, and the pages illustrated with so old familiar faces, that we envy the young men who are privileged to sit under so able a teacher as the author, with such a guide as this handbook to enlighten the way and prepare the mind for the study of more elaborate works.

STEIGER'S CATALOGUE OF GERMAN LITERATURE has been received by us from the publisher in New York. It is written in good High Dutch, and appears to contain short historical sketches of several Western American cities and institutions; but as the only German we understand is a Dutch wife, we have put the catalogue in a safe place for the benefit of any subscriber who may have a better acquaintance with German language and literature than ourselves.

CANADA HEALTH JOURNAL. Edited by C. T. CAMPBELL, M.D., London, Ontario.

Just too late to notice in our last issue, we received this little periodical. Though expressing no particular leanings in the first number, we suppose we may look upon it as the exponent of the views of our Homeopathic brethren, as it is under that head that the editor is registered.

We have received, through the kindness of Messrs. Copp, Clarke & Co., BRAITHEWAITE'S RETROSPECT, and THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS, for January, 1870, both containing their usual amount of valuable matter. We give our readers some selections.

SUBSCRIBERS who have paid Dr. Brock for Vol. II. of the JOURNAL, will notice the acknowledgment in another column; he also wishes to announce to unpaid subscribers, that if they pay up before the next issue, he will only require the sum of Two Dollars, after that, Three Dollars will be requisite.

Miscellaneous, &c.

Medico-Legal Decision.

The cobbler should not leave his last, is an aphorism as true as it is trite, and as applicable to gentlemen of the long robe, or the silver shoe-buckle, as to the sons of St. Crispin.

It is not many years since, a learned judge in this city called a man to a seat on the bench, and after half-an-hour's conversation on business matters, decided that he was perfectly sane, while many medical men and others testified that the man was so haunted by the idea that his wife formed a league with everybody where he might be living, for the purpose of poisoning him, that he habitually neglected his business and his family, and was allowing a large property to be squandered through sheer neglect, while he was continually moving about from place to place, in order to escape the emissaries of his wife. In view of the above circumstances, we commend to our reader's attention, the following article from the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, and the *New York Medical Gazette*:—

"On the evening of Friday, the 10th instant, a paper of no little interest, entitled "*The case of Hermann Albert, a medico-legal study*," was read before the Medical Journal Association, by Dr. E. L. Parsons, Resident Physician of the New York City Lunatic Asylum. It appears that a young man named Hermann Albert, who has been twice an inmate of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, and several times a patient at the New York City Lunatic Asylum, was brought before Judge Ingraham the week previous, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and was discharged as an improper subject for detention in an Asylum for the Insane. Little was said in the paper regarding the unprofessional evidence, beyond the simple fact that in the opinion of several shrewd business men, Albert was not insane. Of the medical testimony adduced there seemed to be three grades:—First, the opinion of men who knew nothing whatever, either of the relator or of the study of mental diseases; secondly, the opinions of those who were either well acquainted with the relator or with the subject of insanity—but not with both; and, thirdly, the testimony and opinions of those who were both well acquainted with the mental history and condition of the relator, and well versed in the study of insanity. The medical men belonging to the first of these classes, were fully persuaded that Albert was not at all insane; those of the second