On Friday, 14th August, papers on miscellaneous subjects will be read and discussed.

A list of papers accepted by the Section will be published later. Gentlemen who are desirous of joining the Congress and taking part in any of the above discussions, or of communicating papers on other subjects within the scope of the Section, are requested to inform the Honorary Secretaries of the Section not later than the 15th June.

A provisional programme of Section IX (State Hygiene) has also come to hand, from which we learn that such subjects as the following are to be discussed:—The organisation of a Health Department of the State and its proper relation to other public departments; the education, position, and duties of medical officers of health, sanitary inspectors, artisans employed on sanitary works (e.g., plumbers), midwives; need for popular instruction in hygiene and physiology in regard to health; the notification of infectious diseases and the action to be taken in respect of the notification.

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**REVIEWS.**

*On Severe Vomiting During Pregnancy: A Collection and Analysis of Cases, with Remarks on Treatment.* By Graily Hewitt, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., F.R.S. Edin., &c. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1890.

Dr. Hewitt has the merit of persistency. In this book he returns once more to his flexion theory of the causation of the vomiting of pregnancy. He elaborates it with more than usual care, and supports it by short reports of over 100 cases. Many of the cases are very striking, and there are many valuable suggestions in the book, but his theory must be regarded as still far from being proved.

We may admit that in some cases the vomiting of pregnancy is due to flexion, without allowing that it is so in all cases. Would it not be a mistake to suppose that it is always due to one and the same cause? Is it not more probable that several conditions may have the same effect? When, for example, it occurs late in pregnancy, is its cause the same as when it occurs at the more usual period?

Perhaps, also, it is too much to assume that the uncontrollable vomiting is of the same kind as the ordinary vomiting of pregnancy, or even to assume that the cause of this vomiting
is always to be sought in the uterus. The changes which the whole organism undergoes in pregnancy might easily, at some point independent of the pelvic organs, produce an "irritation" sufficient to cause the vomiting.

If, however, one explanation had to be found to suit most of the cases of pregnancy-vomiting, we would be disposed to hold to the old theory that it is due to the distension of the uterus caused by the growing ovum. And the fact that the severe vomiting has often been found associated with twins and with hydramnios would favour this theory. Barnes's ingenious explanation of the morning sickness as due to the hydrostatic effect of the erect position in increasing the pelvic congestion would also fit in here. But, again, on such a theory, how are we to explain that the sickness and vomiting begin in some cases before the ovum has any appreciable size, or that in others they begin as the result of mental excitement?

Another pet theory of Dr. Hewitt's—that of the impaction of the anteflexed uterus—is again and again enforced in this book, but without any additional proof of its possibility. We cannot but think the word impaction wrongly used here. The anteflexed uterus may be bound down by inflammatory adhesions, or may sink down from relaxation of its supports, but its impaction in this position, from purely physical causes, independently of pathological products, is inconceivable.

Quite apart, however, from the author's "fads," as we may call them, we can recommend this book to our readers as the most complete essay on this subject which exists in our language. What is wanted in this, as in so many other departments, is a better established pathology, and for this evidently we must wait.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Etiological and Therapeutic. By R. W. Philip, M.D. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland.

This book gives us the results of a series of experiments on the lower animals (frogs and mice) by injecting them with a solution prepared in a special manner from tubercular sputum. The author endeavours to show that these experiments support the theory that death in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is due to the toxic influence of certain products of the growth of the tubercular bacillus in the tissues. The subject is a very interesting one, and we hope this book will cause both the author and some of his readers to investigate much more fully than has yet been done.
The experiments which he gives are unsatisfactory—because (1) the fluid which he uses is very uncertain in its composition and strength; (2) because the author has not, it would seem, taken the precaution to make control experiments by injecting similar animals with pure water, or, better still, with a solution prepared from non-tubercular sputum, say that of simple bronchitis, and to compare these control experiments with the others.

Our author shows that the solution which he prepared has a toxic and a depressing effect, and also that this effect can be combatted by atropine.

From this conclusion he recommends, in the second or therapeutic part of his book, that pulmonary phthisis should be treated with atropine when the disease has arrived at the stage of absorption. Our author's experiments are not sufficient to make us hope much from this line of treatment.

In the therapeutic part he divides the course of the disease into three stages—(1) catarrhal stage; (2) stage of invasion; (3) stage of elaboration or absorption. With regard to the first, we are not inclined to believe that pulmonary phthisis necessarily begins from catarrh; the results obtained by treating lupus, &c., with "tuberculin," show that foci of this disease may be present in the lung when there is no catarrh, and without any symptom pointing to disease in the chest.

The plan of injecting medicines into the trachea, which he recommends for the second stage, we have found both safe and easy, but we fear that it is not capable of hindering permanently the advance of the disease. Further experiment in this line of treatment may give us more light.

We would recommend the book to our readers as being very suggestive, though the conclusions are far from proven by the evidence which the author gives.

Transactions of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland.
Vol. VIII. Edited by William Thomson, M.A., F.R.C.S.
Dublin: Fannin & Co. 1890.

The Annual Report of the Irish Academy of Medicine for the past year is very satisfactory. From it we learn that the number of fellows was 244; of members, 28; and of student associates, 11. The fellows have increased by 21, the members have decreased by 6, and the student associates have increased by 9. £100 were invested in 2¾ per cent Consols, and the total amount invested in the name of the Academy
now stands at £596, 2s. 4d. This is certainly a very satisfactory state of things, and the Academy is to be congratulated on its sound financial position. The Report also refers with deep regret to the deaths of Dr. Robert M'Donnell, a former President, and of Dr. Rutherfoord Kirkpatrick, a former President of the Obstetrical Section.

The present volume of Transactions contains a large number of interesting communications, which are arranged in the volume according to the section in which they were delivered. We observe that the largest number of papers has been delivered in the Section of Pathology, a very certain indication of the high value of the work at present being done in the Dublin School of Medicine.

The Year-Book of Treatment for 1891. London: Cassell and Company, Limited.

The chief point to be noted regarding this year's issue of the Year-Book is its increase in size—480 pages, as compared with 324 last year. In other respects it follows the lines which have now become so well known—viz., a combination of abstracts of the chief articles of the year, a short criticism of the more important subjects and references. The field of medicine and surgery is divided into nineteen departments, each of which is well represented. This year-book is now recognised as one of the best of its kind, presenting, as it does, a most useful summary of scientific progress during the past year. To the busy practitioner it is likely to be of the utmost service.

The Medical Annual and Practitioner's Index: A Work of Reference for Medical Practitioners. 1891. Ninth Year. Bristol: John Wright.

This annual retains its popularity and usefulness. In the present issue we have not observed any new features calling for special remark, but we can heartily recommend the volume to our readers as one of the best of its kind. As the treatment of tuberculosis has excited more professional attention of late than any other subject in the whole range of medicine, we turned to the article on it in the Annual. We found the article to be an excellent one in every way—thoroughly scientific, concise, and practical.