BOOKS RECEIVED.

ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS OF NERVOUS DERANGEMENT. By William A. Hammond, M.D. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 182 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1881.

The recent lecture of Dr. Beard before the New York Academy of Sciences, on "Mesmeric Trance," appears to have revived an interest in this subject, and new works bearing on Hypnotism are promised by those who have of late given attention to the phenomena in question.

The work before us by Dr. Hammond, therefore, comes at an opportune moment, for it not only explains very fully the author's views on "Hypnotism," but all the other conditions of nervous derangement which are evidently allied to the same class of mental disturbances. Thus we have chapters on Somnambulism, natural and artificial, including Hypnotism, various phases of Hysteria, the Hysteroid Affections, Stigmatization, Supernatural cures. Some of the causes which lead to sensorial deception and delusional beliefs.

Although the present work is a reprint of a previous book published by the author in 1876, Dr. Hammond states that he has thoroughly revised, and added largely to the subjects now considered, and also "omitted every thing specially relating to spiritualism."

Turning to the subject of Hypnotism, we are somewhat surprised to find it classed under the heading of Artificial Somnambulism, especially as we understood Dr. Hammond to state in a recent lecture before the University of the city of New York, that he attributed the phenomena to quite another cause, and for this reason he proposed to dispense with the term Hypnotism, which implies "sleep," and suggested the introduction of the word "Syggnosticism," meaning union of thought, or sympathy of thinking between two persons. The subject is also complicated by finding two such authorities as Dr. Hammond and Dr. Beard giving conflicting explanations of the phenomena.

Studying the one case of Hypnotism given by Dr. Hammond as the result of his experience, it appears to come to any other conclusion than that the phenomena presented in Hypnotism are merely manifestations of disease.

The instance we refer to was that of a young lady of great personal attractions, who up to a certain time was in a normal condition.

We first find that her nervous organization became depressed and demoralized by a great domestic bereavement, and further prostrated by fatigue, excitement and grief. The trouble commences by the young lady showing symptoms of chorea, the muscles of the face being in almost constant motion. The next step was that she talked in her sleep, and later she walked in her sleep and became a confirmed somnambulist. In the latter condition she walked about the house, struck a match and lighted the gas, seated herself in a chair and looked fixedly at the portrait of her lost mother.

While gazing at the picture she was subjected to various experiments by Dr. Hammond, her olfactory nerves received no impression from the fumes of sulphurous acid gas; she failed to perceive the sour taste of lemons or the bitter taste of quinine; scratching the back of her hand with a pin, pulling her hair and pinching her face appeared to excite no sensation, thus exhibiting all the phenomena of Hypnotism.

The next stage of this case develops a power in the patient of inducing the hypnotic state at will. Her process was to fix her attentions by reading a book and fixing her eyes steadily to reflect as if in a reverie, when she would presently pass to a perfect hypnotic condition.

Without professing to give a final opinion on the phenomena of Hypnotism, we direct attention to this authentic case presented by Dr. Hammond as showing what appears to be the evolution of Hyprotism.

First we find the subject in health, with all the functions and conditions of life normal. Secondly, the body and nervous organization is subjected to a great mental stram, developing a modified Hypnotic condiition. Thirdly, the disease becomes chronic and all the phenomena of Hypnotism are established and the patient is subject to hysteria, catalepsy and ecstasy, three conditions Dr. Hammond considers present in confirmed Hypnotism. There must be a final stage, the form of which may depend on circumstances. Under judicious treatment perhaps a normal condition of the nervous system may be restored, while, on the contrary, a further development of the disease may result in a total breaking up of the nervous system, followed by mania.

These reflections are suggested by the work before us, but in the present condition of the question it is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. Drs. Hammond and Beard are not agreed even on the fundamental principles involved, and the former employs two terms for the phenomena, which are antagonistical to each other. It is therefore evident that ample opportunity is presented for a more thorough examination of the question, the result of which would doubtless improve our knowledge of mental diseases, many of which are at present inexplicable.

PAPILIO.—Devoted to Lepidoptera exclusively.—Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1881.—Mr. Henry Edwards, No. 185 East 116th street, New York City.

This Journal is the authorized organ of the New York Entomological Club, and will be issued about the fifteenth of each month (excepting the two mid-summer months) the subscription being $2 per annum.

The first number contains many articles of interest to entomologists, and a full-page colored illustration of the beautiful insect Edwardsia brillians, from a specimen captured in N. W. Texas by the late Jacob Boll.

Entomologists will welcome this Journal, which in the hands of Mr. Henry Edwards will, doubtless, be maintained at a high standard, aod command success.

USE OF GLASS-WOOL IN FILTRATION.—F. Stolba and R. Böttger. Both these authors point out that glass-wool is attacked by various liquids, including hot water.

DETECTION OF PRE-FORMED UROBILINE IN URINE.—One hundred c.c. of urine are gently shaken up with 50 c.c. of perfectly pure ether; the ether decanted off and evaporated. The residue is taken up in absolute alcohol, and is rose-colored with a green fluorescence. The experiment does not always succeed.—E. SALKOWSKI.

A COLORING MATTER FROM CARBON DISULPHIDE.—If carbon disulphide is agitated with semi-fluid sodium amalgam, and if the paste-like mass is mixed with water, there is produced a hyacinth red liquid, whilst mercury and mercury sulphide are deposited. The solution contains the sodium salt of a yet unknown acid, somewhat soluble in hot water, and more readily in alcohol. It dyes yellow, orange, and brown shades on wool and silk.—C. REICHL.—*Polyt. Notizblatt*, 35, 151.

HOMOFLUORESCEINE: A NEW COLORING MATTER FROM ORCINE AND ITS DERIVATIVES.—On heating solutions of orcine with caustic alkalies and chloroform, the liquid becomes purple and then fiery red, and on dilution shows a strong greenish yellow fluorescence. This reaction is exceedingly sensitive. On neutralizing and adding bromine water a compound is formed from the fluorescent coloring matter resembling eosine; its alkaline alcoholic solutions appear cherry-red by transmitted light with yellow fluorescence. Though many of these compounds have splendid colors, only the nitro-derivatives are suitable for dyeing. Hexa-nitro-mono-oxy-homo-fluoresceine dyes silk a brilliant orange, the penta-nitro-diazo-amido-monoxy-homo-fluoresceine compounds a gold yellow and cyamic acid a light reddish yellow.—H. SCHWARZ.