diseases that have been the subject of a thorough investigation has led biologists to the conclusion that they were caused by the development, in the body of man or the animals, of a microscopic animal, causing therein disturbances frequently fatal. All the symptoms of the disease, all the causes of death, are directly under the influence of the physiological properties of the microbes. What is needed at present to meet the requirements of science, is to ascertain the primary cause of the scourge. Now, the present state of our knowledge indicates that we should direct all our attention to the possible existence in the blood, or in such or such an organ, of an infinitesimally small being whose nature and properties would in all likelihood account for all the peculiarities of cholera, both as regards its morbid symptoms and the mode of its propagation. The existence of that microbe once ascertained would speedily settle the question as to the measures to be taken to check the spread of the disease, and might possibly suggest new therapeutic means to cure it." The mission consists of four young *savants*, doctors, and biologists, — Drs. Roux, Thuillier, Straus, and Nocard. M. Pasteur hopes, that, by scrupulously attending to the hygienic precautions he has written down for them, the great danger they are incurring may be minimized.

— The September *Century* has several papers to which our readers' attention may be called. One of the illustrated articles relates Lieut. Schwatka's personal adventures in the hunt for the musk-ox. Ernest Ingersoll gives an excellent account of Mr. Agassiz' private laboratory at Newport, and of the methods he has so successfully introduced for carrying delicate sea-animals through their earlier stages. An admirable portrait, engraved by Velten, from a photograph of Notman's, will interest many. It has more spirit than one formerly published in the *Harvard register*. Under the title, 'The tragedies of the nests,' John Burroughs writes of the difficulties birds encounter in rearing their young. The attempts toward the unification in railway time in this country are briefly discussed by W. F. Allen.

A writer on ornamental forms in nature gives several striking illustrations of the effects producible, with due study, by 'the naturalistic school' of decorators. With eyes capable of seeing the stream, moth, vine, and skunk-cabbage 'in nature' as they appear to our writer, we may doubt the possibility of their evolutionary limit in art being ever reached. Like the Spanish-Moorish designer, he 'evidently did not care three straws for what all the botanists and florists on earth might think of his work,' so long as it teach us to regard nature from the standpoint of art, and tend in some measure to straighten the devious paths of the modern conventionalizer.

— The *Tribune* of Minneapolis, for Aug. 16, printed Dr. Dawson's address before the American association in full, as well as long abstracts of several of the sectional addresses. Subsequent issues gave very fair reports of the papers read.

— The first number of Kobelt's *Iconographie der schalentragenden europaischen Meeres conchylien* has appeared. It is in quarto, with colored plates, and this number is devoted to species of Muricidae. The descriptions are in Latin, with German text.

— The Washington, of the Italian navy, under command of Capt. Magnaghi, is engaged in its annual cruise for the study of the western Mediterranean.

— One of the Akkas (African pygmies) taken to Italy in 1873 by Miani has just died of consumption at Verona.

— The newspapers of yesterday announce that Mr. J. A. Ryder has succeeded in rearing the American oyster from the egg. His experiments were made in natural enclosures, and so conducted as to preclude any doubt that the spat obtained has been derived from any source except that of the spawn artificially fertilized and introduced into the enclosure. The greatest obstacle to the cultivation of the oyster is now removed.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Delogne, C. H. Flore cryptogamique de la Belgique. livr. 1.: mousses. Bruxelles, 1883. 8°.

Delpino, F. Teoria generale della fillotassi. Genova, 1883. 345 p. 4°.

Depérais, C. Hygiène publique: nouveau traitement des cadavres ayant pour but la destruction des germes contagieux qu'ils peuvent contenir. Naples, *Inst. roy. d'encouragement*, 1883. 19 p., pl. *autogr.* 8°.

Drinker's Explosive compounds and rock drills. Forming a supplementary volume to the first edition of Drinker's Tunnelling. N.Y., 1883. 4°.

Duclaux. Microbiologie. Paris, 1883. 908 p., 111 fig. 8°.

Gerland, E. Der leere raum, die constitution der körper und der aether. Berlin, 1883. 8°.

Grindon, L. H. The Shakspeare flora. Guide to all the principal passages in which mention is made of trees, plants, flowers, and vegetable productions. With comments and botanical particulars. Manchester, 1883. 330 p. 8°.

Henrivaux, J. Le verre et le cristal. Paris, 1883. atlas, 26 pl. 8°.

Heriz, E. Construcción de mapas. Barcelona, *Ramirez*, 1882. 12 p., 8 pl. 4°.

Herrmann, G. Der reibungswinkel. Aachen, 1883. fig. 4°.

Heukels, H. Schoolflora van Nederland. Bewerkt naar O. Wünsche's Schulflora von Deutschland. Groningen, 1883. 62+ 368 p. 8°.

Israels, A. H., en **Daniëls**, C. E. De verdiensten der hollandsche geleerden ten opzichte van Harvey's leer van den bloedsomloop. Utrecht, 1883. 143 p. 8°.

Jordan, D. S., and **Gilbert**, C. H. Synopsis of the fishes of North America. Washington, 1883. 1,018 p. 8°.

Jordan, W. L. New principles of natural philosophy. London, 1883. illustr. 8°.

Koehler, R. Recherches sur les echinides des côtes de Provence. Marseille, 1883. 167 p., 7 pl. 4°.

Kohlfürst, L. Die elektrischen einrichtungen der eisenbahnen und das signalwesen. Wien, 1883. (elektro-techn. bibl., xii.) 288 p., illustr. 8°.

Lambert, E. Traité pratique de botanique. Propriétés des plantes, leur utilité et leur emploi dans la médecine, l'industrie, etc. Paris, 1883. illustr. 8°.

Larden, W. School course on heat. N.Y., 1883. 321 p., illustr. 8°.

List of British birds. Compiled by a committee of the British ornithologists' union. London, 1883. 258 p. 8°.

Lubbock, J. Fourmis, abeilles et guêpes. Études expérimentales sur l'organisation et les moeurs des insectes hyménoptères. 2 vols. Paris, 1883. illustr. 8°.

Mann, L. Die atomgestalt der chemischen grundstoffe. Berlin, 1883. illustr. 8°.

Martini, A. Manuale di metrologia, ossia misure, pesi e monete in uso attualmente e anticamente presso tutti i popoli. Torino, 1883. 912 p. 8°.