

lation, resulted in consumption in these people. In the country, consumption prevails in damp valleys and along the banks of rivers. In the city we find it most prevalent in those whose habits are sedentary, as book-keepers, clerks, salesmen, etc. It is also prevalent among file-makers, steel-workers, grindstone-makers. In the latter class, hardly one escapes. In the discussion of this paper, it came out that the mortality from consumption was greater in the District of Columbia, in proportion to its population, than in all of New England; and that whenever it occurred it was largely acquired, probably seventy-five per cent. In fact, some, Dr. Didama of Syracuse among the number, believed that it was always acquired, and never hereditary.

The evening session of Dec. 9 was opened by the reading of a paper on 'The German system of physical education,' by Dr. E. M. Hartwell, Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore.

Physical training had its origin in Germany in 1785. At present the time devoted to this part of the education must be at least two hours weekly. The effect on the development of the German youth can be imagined when it is considered that this systematic physical training continues from the age of six years to the age of eighteen in girls, and twenty in boys.

A full list of the papers was given in *Science* of Nov. 20.

The Lomb prizes were awarded as follows:—

1°. 'Healthy homes and foods for the working classes.' First prize not awarded; second, to Victor C. Vaughan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

2°. 'Sanitary conditions and necessities of school-houses and school-life.' First prize not awarded; second, to D. F. Lincoln, M.D., Boston, Mass.

3°. 'Disinfection and individual prophylaxis against infectious diseases.' First prize, to George M. Sternberg, M.D., surgeon U.S.A.; second not awarded.

4°. "The preventable causes of disease, injury, and death in American manufactories and workshops, and the best means and appliances for preventing and avoiding them." First prize not awarded; second, to George H. Ireland, Springfield, Mass.

Reports of committees on school hygiene, animal diseases and animal foods, and on disposal of the dead, were made by their respective chairmen. The latter was a *résumé* of what had been accomplished during the past year in the advancement of cremation. The 4,380 human bodies which are dissected annually in Paris at the medical school are now cremated in the cemetery of Père la Chaise. In Italy there were, during the year 1884,

396 bodies incinerated. In Spain a bill has become law, granting permission to cremate human bodies. In Germany, in 1884, 186 bodies were similarly disposed of. During the present year four persons have been cremated in England, and there is now no question there of the legality of this process. The agitation of the question has aroused the Church of England, and important reforms have been instituted in the methods of burial. One of these is the substitution, for the usual coffins, of those made from pulp or *papier-maché*, which will readily disintegrate. In France a bill is now in the chamber of deputies, legalizing cremation, and an engineer has been sent to Italy to study the best plans for a crematorium, to be built near Paris. During 1884 six societies for the advancement of cremation have been established in the United States, and two crematories erected.

Mr. Lomb offered new prizes for another year, one for plans for constructing houses costing \$600, \$1,000, and \$1,500; the amounts to be \$100 for the first, \$75 for the second, \$50 for the third, and \$25 for the fourth.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: president, Dr. H. P. Walcott, Cambridge, Mass.; first vice-president, Dr. C. W. Covernton, Toronto, Canada; second vice-president, Dr. G. B. Thornton, Memphis, Tenn.; treasurer, Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley, Nashville, Tenn. The secretary, Dr. Irving A. Watson, was elected in 1883 for three years.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Toronto, Canada, commencing on the first Tuesday in October.

METHODS OF TEACHING POLITICAL ECONOMY.

PROFESSOR LAUGHLIN opens the work which we have under consideration with these words: "The existence of this little book is due to an attempt to convey by lectures to students an understanding of the position which political economy holds in regard, not merely to its actual usefulness for every citizen, but to its disciplinary powers, and to the qualities of mind which are necessary for success in the study."

The author's treatment of methods, based as it is upon an experience of several years in the class-room, is valuable both on account of its positive information and its suggestiveness. It may be well, in particular, to call attention to those pages in which Professor Laughlin describes the advan-

The study of political economy. Hints to students and teachers. By J. LAWRENCE LAUGHLIN, Ph.D., assistant professor of political economy in Harvard university. New York, Appleton, 1885. 12°.

tages of the graphic method as a means of illustrating principles and presenting statistical statements, the significance of which is understood with so much difficulty by the ordinary student. Professor Laughlin recognizes the utility of history and statistics, but he treats them rather as means of illustration and verification of what has otherwise been ascertained, than as the source of new principles. Professor Laughlin also attempts to divorce ethics and economics.

A feature of the book is a 'teachers' library,' excellent on the whole, though omissions are noticeable. No history of the science is mentioned. Even such a well-known and valuable work as Thorold Rogers' 'Work and wages' finds no place, and the same is true of the works of Wagner and Knies. Communism and socialism, irrespective of the value of their theories, have assumed an historical importance sufficient to demand a careful study of their principles by teachers of political economy; yet none of their leading exponents are referred to. Under 'Reports and statistics,' the author fails to notice those valuable sources of information, the reports of the state bureaus of labor statistics, as well as other valuable state publications.

The object of the book is good, and the work is a valuable addition to our too scanty literature on the subject of method in teaching political economy.

NOTES AND NEWS.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS announce the publication of a monthly paper to begin January, 1886, to be entitled *The national argus*. This paper will be devoted to the discussion of questions relating to the care of the insane, the idiotic, the deaf and dumb, the blind, paupers, and homeless children.

— *Il morgagni* of Nov. 3 reports that Dr. Freire of Rio Janeiro has inoculated more than three hundred persons with a liquid culture of the yellow-fever microbe. Such inoculations are performed with five or six punctures in one arm, and in a few hours afterwards the patient complains of headache and backache, with a slight rise of temperature. Nausea and vomiting occur in rare cases. These symptoms sometimes last between two and three days, but they are never serious. The inoculations are practised on individuals who were in the centre of the infected locality. None of them died, and only very few presented mild forms of yellow fever.

— Lord Crawford cables, Dec. 16, the discovery by Gove of a new star, in the place of D. M. 20°, 1172, possibly a variable. It was of the 6th mag. on Dec. 13.

— Kane's 'European butterflies' is meant to replace Kirby's little manual published more than twenty years ago, and is, indeed, a much more complete work, with excellent illustrations of over 100 butterflies; but it is sadly deficient just where we most need help, and where Kirby did all that was then possible, for it pays no attention whatever to the early stages or food plants of these insects, any allusions to them being merely incidental. It is of value, therefore, only to a student of the old school, or the old-fashioned collector. In its details as to geographical distribution it is worthy of all praise.

— The Smithsonian institution has issued a price-list of its publications, which are no longer distributed gratuitously to individuals, as formerly; and no wonder, when they already exceed six hundred. The prices which have been affixed are high as compared to government publications in general, though an ordinary publisher would look on them as rather low. Considering the object of the institution, one is inclined to wish the prices had been made somewhat lower; and to attach any price at all to some of them, such as circulars, seems not worth the pains. Nearly a third of the publications are out of print, and therefore not embraced in the list.

— With the beginning of the coming year, the two leading meteorological journals — the Austrian and the German — will be consolidated, and will appear under the joint editorship of Drs. Hann and Köppen. The composite journal will be known simply as the *Meteorologische zeitschrift*. It will be published by Asher & Co. of Berlin.

— Dr. Latour's 'De la chaleur animale' (Paris, Baillière, 1885) may be described as an attempt by a person unacquainted with elementary facts in physiology and anatomy to explain the pathology and nature of fever. In reading it, one hardly knows whether to be amused by its author's *naïf* self-conceit or to be exasperated by his impudence. As regards the color of the blood, we are informed (p. 13) that "it is only by mixture with carbonic acid . . . that this fluid takes the dark tint, — a tint which it gives up to resume its brightness so soon as this excrementitious gas has been rejected." It is hardly necessary to point out that the bright color of arterial blood is due to the fact that its coloring-matter is combined with oxygen; and the dark color of venous blood, to the fact that most of the haemoglobin has given up its oxygen, and that