

which the experience of this company has shown to be advantageous from a financial as well as a humanitarian stand-point.

Dr. Dana discussed the relation of high altitudes to nervous diseases. He had investigated the subject by means of questions addressed to physicians in various elevated stations, and arrived at the following conclusions : choreiform manifestations are increased by high altitudes ; nervousness and irritability are also increased ; nervous women especially are rendered more nervous ; the weight of opinion seems to be that old age is not prolonged by altitude ; epilepsy is not increased, sometimes the patients improve ; insomnia is usually benefited, often cured ; the gouty diathesis is not helped by the change.

The officers for the coming year are, president, Dr. Frank Donaldson of Baltimore ; 1st vice-president, Dr. V. I. Bowditch of Boston ; 2d vice-president, Dr. R. G. Curtin of Philadelphia ; secretary, Dr. J. R. Walker of Philadelphia.

PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHILOMATHIC CONGRESS.

THE International philomathic congress, having for its object the discussion of commercial and industrial technical instruction, and opening Sept. 20, 1886, has arranged the following programme of questions for discussion : I. General questions : Present condition of commercial and industrial technical instruction in France and abroad ; domain of this instruction ; importance due it ; its influence on the economic, commercial, and industrial condition of the country ; general view of an organization of technical instruction ; preparation for the various branches of this instruction ; action of the state, general councils, municipalities, chambers of commerce, consulting chambers, syndic chambers, and private corporations ; on the establishment of schools of technical instruction ; on the elaboration of their methods and courses of instruction ; on their government ; on their financial organization ; to what extent should technical instruction be provided with a general and uniform course ? to what extent should it have special courses appropriate to the necessities of each district ? what position should be allotted in the different schools of technical instruction to general instruction ? what proportion is to be allotted to theoretical and what to practical instruction ? relations among themselves of similar schools of technical instruction, with a view to common action respecting all general measures intended to aid their development, and assure their prosperity ; concerning their representation in the superior council of technical instruc-

tion ; periodicity of the congress for technical instruction ; place and state of the next congress.

II. Special questions : organization of commercial technical instruction, first degree (elementary commercial instruction), second degree (more advanced commercial schools), advanced degree (advanced commercial studies) ; organization of industrial technical instruction, first degree (workmen), second degree (master workmen and foremen), advanced degree (engineers) ; preparation and admission of the pupils ; instruction by the master workmen ; apprenticeship ; schools ; laws and regulations, courses, and methods ; theoretical instruction and practical instruction ; instruction in drawing ; manual labor ; staff of administration and instruction ; councils of administration and improvement ; buildings and material ; plans and distribution of the buildings ; instruments and material for instruction ; libraries ; commercial museums ; industrial museums ; financial organization ; fellowships ; scholastic excursions and expeditions ; travelling fellowships and resident fellowships abroad ; finding places for pupils after graduation ; places and salaries ; complimentary courses of technical instruction ; courses for apprentices and adults ; public lecturers. All information relating to the congress may be had of the general secretary of the Philomathic society at Bordeaux, Eugene Buhan.

NOTES AND NEWS.

WE have received a pamphlet of fifty-one pages on the Pennsylvania boroughs, which may interest some of our readers. It is written by William P. Holcomb, and forms one of the studies in historical and political science published by the Johns Hopkins university, the fourth series of which is now under way. The author begins with an account of the introduction of the borough system under William Penn, and then sketches the history of some of the leading boroughs, and concludes with a description of the borough system as it now exists. This method of local government is only found in three American states, — Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Connecticut, — and citizens of other states have some difficulty in understanding what a borough is, and wherein it differs from a city. According to Mr. Holcomb, the difference is mainly one of size, ten thousand inhabitants being required, under Pennsylvania laws, to constitute a city, while a borough need not have more than a few hundred. Then a city in that state has two representative councils, while a borough has only one ; and these two points, with a few differences in names, seem to be the only distinction between the two kinds of