NOTES AND NEWS.

So much has been said of late about the dangers of producing tuberculosis in the human subject by means of the milk of cows having this disease, that it would seem that there was nothing more to add. Bang of Copenhagen, however, calls attention to a new source of danger in these cases. He finds that the udder itself is not infrequently the seat of this disease, and that the milk produced by such a gland is capable of infecting animals fed upon it. The necessity of having competent veterinarians to examine critically all milch-cows is becoming daily more apparent; and a board of health that neglects such examination is aiding materially in the propagation of this disease, which must be regarded as one of the principal factors in the mortality of our population, both in city and country.

— The operation of tracheotomy, by which an opening is made with the knife into the windpipe for the relief of membranous croup and diphtheria, seems likely to be superseded by intubation of the larynx. In this new operation a small tube is inserted through the mouth into the windpipe, and all necessity for a cutting operation is thus avoided. It is claimed by the advocates of this method of treatment that it is far easier to introduce this tube than to perform tracheotomy, and that more lives are saved than by the old operation. The statistics which are given in the medical journals go far to confirm their opinions, and, as the process is being generally introduced, but little time will be necessary to substantiate the claims made for it.

— At the first exposition of the Iowa weather-service, recently held, there was shown a selection from the large amount of graphical material that has accumulated at the central station. At future exhibitions it is proposed to present instruments and other elements of the service.

— G. P. Putnam's Sons (New York) have published 'The life of Robert Fulton,' by Thomas W. Knox. The book is one full of anecdote, and will prove to be interesting to many a boy. It tells the story of one of America's most remarkable inventors, whose head, from youth on, was "so full of original notions that there was no room to store away the contents of dusty books."

— Prof. J. C. Faye of Appleton, Wis., has published through Van Nostrand a "Handbook of mineralogy, for the determination, description, and classification of minerals found in the United States." Professor Faye was induced to write this book through the success of his 'Mineral tables,' which quickly passed through two editions.

— *The American journal of biology*, a quarterly edited by H. D. Valin, M.D., is announced. The contents of the first number are, 'The laws of life outlined,' 'Evolution of life,' 'Origin of flowers,' 'Nature of animal colors,' 'Nature of light,' 'Development of the eye,' 'Nature of sight,' 'Origin of walnuts,' 'A ballade of evolution.' The journal is published by the American journal of biology publishing company, 802 South Halsted Street, Chicago.

— It is claimed, that, whenever an acute abscess forms, two varieties of micro-organism will invariably be found in the pus, —Staphylococcus pyogenes and Streptococcus pyogenes.

— Some years ago great expectations were excited by the claims which were made that the Eucalyptus globulus would banish malaria from the land, if only planted in abundance in malarious regions. Extensive plantations were accordingly made, but, so far as known, the result was a total failure. Dr. Brandes of Hanover now advocates, with a similar object in view, the growth of the Anacharis alsinastrum, a water-plant which is exceedingly common in some sections of the country. He bases his proposition upon the fact that in the district where he lives fevers of a malarial type were very prevalent until this water-plant was introduced, and that they diminished from year to year until four years ago, when they entirely disappeared, and have not since returned. As the Anacharis is easily obtained and grows spontaneously, requiring no attention, the experiment can be easily tried in marshy districts where malaria prevails.

— In China there is a curious device to make record of earth-tremors. It is of copper, and is shaped like a wine-bottle. Inside is a little pillar, so placed as to move in eight directions. On the outside of the bottle are eight dragon-heads, each of which contains a ball. Underneath these heads are eight frogs, so placed that they appear to watch the dragon's face, so that they are ready to receive the ball if it should be dropped. All the arrangements which cause the pillar, when it moves, to knock the ball out of the dragon's mouth, are well hidden in the bottle. When an earthquake occurs and the bottle is shaken, the dragon instantly drops the ball, and the frog which receives it vibrates vigorously. Any one watching this instrument can easily observe earthquakes.

— Prof. T. C. Mendenhall, recently at the head of the electrical department of the signal service, has accepted the presidency of the Rose polytechnic institute at Terre Haute.

— Decatur, Ill., or rather a suburb of that town, is the latest place from which cases of food-poisoning are reported. This time it is chicken-salad which has produced the evil results. At a recent wedding-party, at which this dish formed a part of the entertainment, fifty persons were poisoned, but not fatally in any single instance. The illness is attributed to the copper from a copper kettle in which the chickens were cooked and salted.

— The J. Marion Sims memorial fund now amounts to $7,759.91. The committee who have the fund in charge are about to take steps to erect a suitable bronze monument to the memory of the distinguished American surgeon.

— Sir Joseph Lister, the great exponent of the antiseptic treatment of wounds which is known as Listerism, has abandoned the use of the spray of carbolic acid which he formerly advocated so persistently, on the ground that his later experiments satisfy him that the germicide properties of a solution of 1 to 40 of carbolic acid thrown by a spray several feet into the air are absolutely nothing; and that the success obtained by this treatment was due to irrigation and cleanliness. He now employs sal alembroth as a dressing for wounds. This is a salt which was known to the ancient alchemists, and is a double mercurial salt formed by the sublimation of a mixture of perchloride of mercury and chloride of ammonium. Lister employs this in a solution of 1-1000, soaking in it his dressings of gauze and lint.

— The English commission for the investigation of hydrophobia is thoroughly organized and equipped for that purpose, but has as yet been unable to take any original steps in that direction, by reason of its total lack of material, no dog having become rabid since its organization.

— From the *Courier record of medicine*, we learn that a case of hydrophobia recently occurred at Fort Worth, Tex. After the child was bitten, he was taken to Fort Denton, where a mad-stone was applied, for which the parents paid twenty-five dollars. Hearing of another mad-stone, and desiring to do every thing in their power to save their child, his parents secured this one at a cost of fifty dollars, and applied it. Within a short time the child developed hydrophobia, and died.

— We regret to note the death of Prof. H. A. Bayne, Ph.D., of the Royal military college, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Bayne was a native of Nova Scotia. After graduating in arts at Dalhousie college, Halifax, N.S., he spent five years in the special study of chemistry under Wiedemann at Leipzig, Bunsen at Heidelberg, and Dumas at Paris, and took his doctor's degree at Heidelberg. Returning to his native land, he first engaged in organizing the scientific department of the Halifax high school, assisting the faculty of Dalhousie college at the same time to start a science course. In 1879 he was appointed professor of chemistry in the Royal military college, then just founded. Since his appointment his time has been largely occupied with the organizing of his department, and only during the last year or so has he been able to find time for original research. At the last meeting of the Royal society of Canada, of which he was a fellow, he read a valuable paper on 'Chemical tests of the purity of silk.' He had begun in Germany a series of experiments on the properties of the rarer metals, and hoped to continue them when leisure came; but with leisure has come disease and death.

— In a letter to the *Beacon*, Mr. E. B. Elliott corrects an error made in *Science* for Sept. 3. In that number, p. 219, sixth line, 287.372 should read 287.03.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

***Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

A mummified frog.

NOT long ago Mr. James Stevenson of the U. S. geological survey visited me for a day or two at Fort Wingate, and while here invited my attention to an interesting specimen that had fallen into his possession during a recent trip he had made in the coal regions of northern Pennsylvania. The specimen consists of a mummified frog taken from the coal-mine of McLean county, Penn., and the following account of it is from a local newspaper loaned me by Mr. Stevenson for the present purpose. I quote the short notice in full; and the writer of it says, "One of the most curious finds unearthed lately in this region, and what may yet prove a valuable fact in the study of science and history, was singularly found by Eddie Marsh, the fourteen-year-old son of Mr. D. B. Marsh, a book-keeper for Stevenson Brothers, hardware dealers. Eddie, becoming impatient at the fire in the stove, which was not burning vigorously, took the poker and began punching it. A large lump of coal lay smouldering, and he determined to break it; and, after punching at it for a moment, the lump burst open as if by explosion, and a number of pieces flew out of the stove. One piece he caught, and he was in the act of casting it back into the stove, when its lightness attracted his attention. On viewing it, he saw that it was nothing less than a perfectly formed frog. On last evening a large number of persons viewed the little curiosity. It had been embedded in the centre of the large lump of coal, and its bed was plainly discernible when the lump was laid open. The lump of coal came from the third vein of coal in the McLean county coal-shaft, which is 541 feet under ground. The curiosity apparently was not petrified. Apparently it had been mummified instead. It was shrivelled until it is about half the size of a full-grown frog, and it is light and soft. Its shape is perfect, and the warty