

σαρκοφαγος = Flesh consuming. Anasarca.

σαρξ-κος = Flesh. Sarcophagus.

"κακων πε λαγος"

κακος = Bad, evil. Cacodyle—cachectic, cacexy—cac-
oethes, cacophony.

πελαγος = The Sea. Archipelago.

After this study of English, Latin, and Greek, the student can understand without difficulty the technical terms of every science in every modern language. He is also able to trace the derivation and meaning of new terms which are constantly formed in every department of knowledge.

He possesses the key by which he can acquire two modern languages in the time otherwise required for one; he enjoys a deeper insight into the spirit of all literature; he has a systematic knowledge of sufficient Latin and Greek to enable him to continue alone his reading of the classics if he has the time and taste so to do; he has increased and perfected the vocabulary of his own language, which, in very great degree, is a measure of mental development, and which possesses an intrinsic value almost beyond estimation.

This course is relatively easy, since the pupil makes use, through every step, of a large vocabulary which he has in great measure already at his command. After he has once learned the inflections, he makes rapid progress in comprehending the simpler forms of construction. He soon recognizes at a glance important "stems" in English words, even when they are disguised, as in microbe and autobiography, in telescope and episcopal, and in chylopoetic and poetry.

A vast majority of pupils in our high schools drop their studies at the end of their second year. They have spent so much time in struggling with an absolutely strange vocabulary and idioms that they have learned very little English and still less Latin and Greek. By the plan here advocated, they will have made progress in their own language and acquired considerable knowledge in the ancient languages—an excellent foundation for further study in any field. They will have stored their minds with many beautiful sentences, epigrams, mottoes, and gems of thought.

This course will not materially conflict with any method which a teacher may prefer.

NOTES AND NEWS.

At a meeting of the Botanical Club of Washington, held April 23, 1892, a committee was appointed to consider and report upon the questions of a botanical congress and botanical nomenclature. At a special meeting, called May 7, this committee presented a report, which was unanimously adopted by the Club, to the effect, that, while favoring the final settlement of disputed questions by means of an international congress, they do not regard the present as an opportune time, but that they recommend the reference of the question of plant nomenclature, first, to a representative body of American botanists; they suggest the consideration, by such a body, of the following questions, among others: The law of priority, An initial date for genera, An initial date for species, The principle "once a synonym always a synonym," What constitutes publication? The form of ordinal and tribal names, The method of citing authorities, Capitalization; that they recognize the Botanical Club of the A. A. S. as a representative body of American botanists, and commend to that body, for discussion and disposal, the subject of nomenclature as set forth in these resolutions. The report was signed by Lester F. Ward, Geo. Vasey, F. H. Knowlton, B. T. Galloway, Erwin F. Smith, Geo. B. Sudworth, Frederick V. Coville.

—M. Faure has recently invented a process of producing aluminium, according to *Engineering*, by means of which he hopes to reduce its price to about 8d. or 9d. a pound. Briefly speaking, his proposed method consists in obtaining, in a cheap manner,

aluminium chloride and decomposing it electrically. This decomposition can be effected with a smaller potential difference than can that of the fluoride most frequently used for preparing aluminium by electrolysis, and at the same time a valuable bye-product is formed in the chlorine liberated. It is said, however, that there are considerable difficulties in the way of making the proposed process a commercial success.

—Opinions are being expressed by scientific workers in India, says *Nature*, in favor of the making of systematic experiments with snake poison. The Committee for the Management of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens are constructing, from private subscriptions a snake-house with the most modern improvements, which will contain specimens of all the principal poisonous snakes in the country. If the necessary funds were available, arrangements could be made to fit up a small laboratory in connection with the snake-house, for the purpose of conducting inquiries of all descriptions bearing upon the pathology of snake-bite and cognate subjects, and in future there would be no difficulty in arranging for the carrying out of any special experiments that might be required. It is understood that Dr. D. D. Cunningham, F.R.S., President of the Committee, would in that case be willing to take an active part in organizing and promoting such inquiries and carrying out such experiments, including the testing of the various alleged remedies for snake-bite, which are from time to time brought to notice.

—Captain Bower of the Indian Staff Corps has arrived at Simla from China, after a very remarkable journey across the Thibet Tableland, according to *Nature*. He had with him Dr. Thorold, a sub-surveyor, one Pathan orderly, a Hindoostani cook, six caravan drivers, and forty-seven ponies and mules. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, who gives an account of the journey, says that Captain Bower, leaving Leh on June 14, crossed the Lanakma Pass on July 3, avoiding the Thibetan outpost placed further south. Journeying due east, he passed a chain of salt lakes, one of which, called Hor-Ba-Too, is probably the highest lake in the world, being 17,930 feet above the sea. Gradually working to the south-east, the explorer saw to the north a magnificent snowy range, with a lofty peak in longitude 83° and latitude 35°. After many weeks' travel over uplands exceeding 15,000 feet in height, where water was scarce and no inhabitants were to be seen, the party on Sept. 3 reached Gya-Kin-Linchin, on the northern shore of Tengri Nor Lake, in longitude 91° and latitude 31°. This is within a few marches of Lhasa, and two officials from the Devi Jong, or temporal governor of Lhasa, met him here and peremptorily ordered him to go back. But he refused to return, and a compromise was effected, guides and ponies being provided on his agreeing to make a detour to the north in order to reach the frontier of Western China. He reached Chiamdo on Dec. 31, only just succeeding in getting off the tableland before winter set in. He struck Bonvalot's route for a few miles when marching to Chiamdo. The country about this town is very fertile and well wooded. Three thousand of the monks of Chiamdo, who lived in fine monasteries, threatened to attack the party, but were deterred on learning that they carried breech-loaders. Captain Bower arrived at Tarchindo, an outpost on the Chinese frontier, on Feb. 10. The distance covered from Lanakma to Tarchindo was over 2,000 miles, all of which, save a few miles, has now been explored for the first time. The route for thirteen consecutive days lay over a tableland 17,000 feet high. Captain Bower is engaged in writing a report and completing his maps.

—"Of late years a considerable, and perhaps a disproportionate, amount of attention," says *Lancet*, "has been devoted to the scientific explanation of the state of unconsciousness. The public, as well as the professional, mind has been treated *ad nauseam* to discussions on hypnotism. The relations of trance and sleep to each other and to various phases of disease have elicited their share of logical ingenuity and of research. Quite recently again an allied condition—that of the numbed sensation consequent upon shock, such as that experienced in falling from a height—has attracted attention, though, beyond the assurances of some who have survived this experience that dread and pain are alike absent, we have no certain proof of the existence or the essential

character of this merciful torpor. According to Professor Heim of Zurich, who has devoted much time and thought to the investigation of the subject, the sensations at such a time of the sufferer, if so he can be termed, resemble somewhat those of drowning persons. In place of pain there is a process of rapid and involuntary mental activity, succeeded by stupor; series of old memories fly past the mind like scenes in some rapid vision, and life is revised, as it were, on the threshold of death. One is naturally tempted to inquire what is the explanation of this extraordinary state, in which the final catastrophe appears to be lost in the dream-slumber preceding it. The preoccupation of rapid cerebration, a species of shock in itself, might furnish a clue to the mystery—at all events, as regards the abolition of pain and fear. We cannot help thinking, however, that other causes must be operating along with this, which at first presents itself as the most obvious. The analogy afforded by drowning is, to our mind, especially suggestive. We may remark that here we have to do with a highly probable alterative of normal brain function in the stimulant-sedative influence of a disturbed circulation. The advent of asphyxia implies the turgescence of all venous channels and capillaries, and the increasing accumulation in these of carbonic acid. It appears to us that the same process must occur in falling. As a rule the fall takes place with head downwards. At the same time there is exerted upon the respiratory passages the suction force of the outer air in rapid transit, acting, we may conclude, in much the same manner as water in a large tube, which draws into its own volume the fluid contents of any small communicating channel. Thus it would seem at least a reasonable hypothesis that the coma of death in the circumstances referred to, like the same condition in various forms of disease, is essentially a process of deoxidation of tissue with accumulation of carbonic acid."

—A preliminary paper "On Drift or Pleistocene Formations of New Jersey," by Professor R. D. Salisbury, has been issued by the Geological Survey of that State. The detailed survey of the Pleistocene (drift) formations of New Jersey was begun about the first of July of last summer. It is the purpose of this survey to prepare maps which shall represent the distribution and the relation of the various types of drift formed by the ice, and by the waters emanating from it, during the glacial or Pleistocene period. It is also the purpose of the survey to prepare maps showing the distribution and relations of such other formations as shall be found to exist within the State, which were made contemporaneously with the drift, or during any part of the Pleistocene period. With each sectional map of the Pleistocene formations it is proposed to publish a descriptive text, explaining and describing the nature of the various formations mapped, the method by which they originated, their relations to each other and to underlying formations, and the notable changes which they have undergone since their formation. Along with such descriptions, which will be adequate to the understanding of the maps, and of the surface formations of the areas represented on the maps, there may be suggestions concerning the economic significance of the formations. Obligations contracted before this work was undertaken have limited the time which has thus far been devoted to it. Of the two months spent in the field, a considerable part was given to a general reconnaissance of that part of the drift-bearing area adjacent to the terminal moraine. Some of the general results of this reconnaissance are embodied in the report. In addition to the work of reconnaissance, the detailed study and mapping of the surface formations has been begun, and has covered that part of Middlesex County, which lies north of the Raritan, most of Union County, and the south-eastern portion of Essex County. Under the circumstances it was deemed advisable to make this report no more than a general discussion of the drift and of the Pleistocene formations in general, with especial reference to the phenomena in New Jersey. This report may therefore be regarded as in some sense a preface to the more detailed reports which will follow when the work which must form their basis is completed.

—The eighth annual meeting of the Conference of State Boards of Health will be held in Lansing, Mich., June 6, 1892. The meeting will convene at 10 A.M., in the Senate Chamber of the State

Capitol. Governor Winans will informally receive the members of the Conference in the Executive Rooms in the State Capitol during the day or evening of June 6. The local committee has expressed the hope that the time of the members of the Conference will permit of their visiting the three other State institutions located at Lansing. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Downey, where special rates have been secured. The following questions for the consideration of the Conference have been received by the Secretary: Proposed by the State Board of Health of Connecticut, (a) What is the most practicable way of providing a hospital for contagious diseases for a town or community of a population of 5,000, the same to be always ready for the reception of patients? (b) What will be the average cost of maintaining it, per annum; the probable number of patients it would be called upon to receive being regarded in the estimate? Discussion opened by Dr. L. F. Salomon of New Orleans, La., and Dr. Louis Balch, Albany, N. Y. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Indiana, How strict should the quarantine be in cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever? Discussion opened by Dr. Thos. J. Dills, Ft. Wayne, Ind., and a member of the Iowa Board of Health. The Michigan Plan of Sanitary Conventions, by Professor Delos Fall, Albion, Mich. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Louisiana, (a) What should be the relations of State and County Boards of Health? (b) What should be the relation of State Boards of Health to National Authorities? (c) What should be the relation of State Boards of Health to the State? Discussion opened by Dr. C. P. Wilkinson, New Orleans, La. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Pennsylvania, In view of the increasing frequency of communication between the Republic of Mexico and the United States, and of the constant prevalence of typhus fever in the former country, is there such probability of the introduction of that disease into the United States as to make it important for health officers along the southern frontier to use especial vigilance on that account? Discussion opened by Dr. Robert Rutherford, Houston, Tex., and Dr. L. F. Salomon, New Orleans, La. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Ohio, What measures can be enforced to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in rural districts? Discussion opened by Dr. J. T. Reeve, Appleton, Wis., and Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley, Nashville, Tenn. The relation of the Laboratory of Hygiene to the work of the State Board of Health, by Professor Victor C. Vaughan, Director of the State Laboratory of Hygiene, Ann Arbor, Mich. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Kentucky, Should State Boards of Health be charged with the administration of medical practice laws? Discussion opened by Dr. Henry B. Baker, Lansing, Mich., and Dr. Jerome Cochran, Montgomery, Ala. Proposed by the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario, (a) Has intra-State, inter-State, and International action to prevent the sewage pollution of streams become a necessity? (b) If so, what steps are practicable for bringing about conjoint action? (c) What practical methods are available for preventing such pollution? Discussion opened by Dr. Benjamin Lee, Philadelphia, Pa., and Dr. P. H. Bryce, Toronto, Ont. The public health work in Michigan, by Dr. Henry B. Baker, Secretary of State Board of Health, Lansing, Mich. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Tennessee, The practical working of inter-State notification. Discussion opened by Dr. P. H. Bryce, Toronto, Ont., and Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley, Nashville, Tenn. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Vermont, The part played in the spread of tuberculosis by the flesh and milk of tuberculous cattle. Discussion opened by Dr. C. H. Fischer, Providence, R. I., and Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, Ann Arbor, Mich. Proposed by the State Board of Health of Pennsylvania, Is the disinfection of baggage essential to effective quarantine? Discussion opened by Dr. C. H. Hewitt, Red Wing, Minn., and Dr. S. R. Olliphant, New Orleans, La. The "unfinished business" includes, report of the committee to formulate a plan for the creation and organization of county and other local Boards of Health, report of the committee to make a Codification of the Health Laws of the different States and Provinces, report of the committee on the Collective Investigation of Diseases, report of the committee on Vital Statistics, report of the committee on the Prevention of Consumption, report of the committee on the Pollution of Streams, and the Formation of River-Conservancy Commissions.