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Diphtheria: Its Cause, Nature, and
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Buffalo, N. Y.: Matthews Bros., and

## Bryant.

Dr. Gregg combats the Pungus theory of diphtheria, holding that the supposed bacteria found in diphtheritic stages of coagulation and disintegration. The fibrin so thrown off is not a cause of the disease, but the result of
an effort of the system to expel the excess of fibrin in an effort of the system to expel the excess of fibrin in
the blood, an excess brought on by a waste of albumen the blood, an excess brought on by a waste of albumen,
the real cause of the physiological disturbance. According to Dr. Gregg, diphtheria is a form of albuminuria allie to Bright's disease and also to consumption of the lungs, the waste of albumen throwing the constituents of the blood into disproportion, the resulting excess of fibrin, salt, etc., acting poisonously like any other foreign matter in the blood. Where the disease seems to be sudden and violent its malignancy is attributed to the circumstances that the system has previously been
subjected to a serious loss of albumen through colds or subjected to a serious loss of albumen through colds or
other causes pr ducing an excessive excretion from mucoussurfaces. Local treatment is deprecated, particularly harsh mcasures likely to irritate the mucous mem. brane of the farces. The positive treatment advised is
as amazing as the reported results of such treatment For a virulent ' constitutional disease " to yield invariably to single doses of lycopodium, 6.000th potency, or lachesis, 2,000th, is quite miraculous. Yet by following
the practice indicated, avoiding all local treatment the practice indicated, avoiding all local treatment,

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Surgery in the Pennstluania Hospital By Thos. G. Morton, M.D., and William
Hunt, M.D., with papers by Drs. John B. Roberts and Frank Woodibury. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott \& Co.
Since the foundation of the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1752. its medical officers have recorded more or less
fully nearly all tbe operations performed, with notes of the more interesting cases received. Since 1873 full clinical notes of all cases have been kept. The vast
chere intereting cases recived. Since 1873 full amount of valuable material thus accumulated has now been digested by the surgeons and physicians of the
hospital, and published in handsome style by direction of the liberal managers of the institution. The case are classified according to their nature; and in many instances the progress made in surgical means and
methods, during the period covered by the hospital cords, has been critically reviewed. The work is illusIt is a bositivy a hundred engravings and phototypes. is in every way a credit to the institution, the resiltco of
whose benevolent work and professional experience it whose benevo
a Pracifical Treatise on Nervous Ex haustion (Neurasthenia), its Symp
toms, Nature, Sequences, Treatment.
By George M. Beard. Second Edition.
New York: William Wood \& Co.
The valueand timeliness of Dr. Beard'sessay are well atested by the call or a second edition within a month
after the publication of the first edition. The only novel feature of the new issue is a cleverly written
preface giving the auth(rr's answer to the question "What Constitutes a Discovery in Science?",
Was Man Created? By Hehry J. Moth, New Y.
pp. 151.
In this expanded lecture Dr. Mott has endeavored to deduction by which science has arrived at theidea of manas a natural growth. Its title should rather be "How Man was Created," creation being regarded as a or miraculous exhibition of supernatural power. The publisher's work is well done, and the numerous illus rationshave been judiciously chosen.
Field Engineering. A Hand Book of the
Theory and Practice of Railway Theory and Practice of Railway
Survering and Construction. By
William H. Searles. New York: John Wiley \& Sons.
The author's aim has been: To present the general subject of railway field work in a progressive and logi
cal order; to classify the problems of railway engine ing so that they may be easily referred to; to discuss all the main practical questions of railway engineering avoiding mattersnon-essential, etc., employing through
out a uniform and systematic notation easily understoodand remembered; to express theresultingformula of every problem in a shape best adapted to convenien
numerical computation, and to furnish a larger variety of tables especially adapted to the wants of field engi neers than bas heretofore been published. The manner in which these purposes have been carried out is in keep-
ing with the author's high professional reputation.
Many of the thirty odd tables are original, and most of the others have been recalculated or enlarged.
A History of the Jetties at the Mouth of the Mississippi River. By E. L.
Corthell, C.E., Chief Assistant and Resident Engineer during the construction
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wider range of interest and should find a place in the ibrary of eve of interest and stould the a plaçe in the the resources of his native land or admires American bold ness, energy, pluck, and er durance in the prosecuman of works of utility. These attributes of American manhood never had a more commendable object, no opening of the Mississippi to commerce. N. W. Afer \& Son's American Newspaper W. Ayer \& Son, Newspaper Advertis ing Agents. 8vo, pp. 616.

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of the State, county, and town of publication of each. of the State, county, and town of publication of each. Special lists are also given of class journals. The cataJogue includes 10,674 periodicals, of which the new
England States have 818, New York 1,241. other Middle States 1,267 , Southern States 1,730 , Western States 4,855 , Territories 190, Canadian provinces 574
The Compend of Anatomy. For Use in ing forsecting Room and in Preparing for Examinations. By John
Roberts,
B.M., M.D. Philadelphia:
C. C. Roberts \& Co.

A concise statement of the more important facts of necessarily brief, and the matter is are clear, though being followed for the most part.

## 

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No attention will be paid to communications unless ccomp.
Names and addresses of correspondents will got be We renewnirers.
formen our request that correspondents, in referring of ormer answers or articles, will be kind enough to of the question.
Correspondents whose inquiries do not appear after a reasonable time should repeat them. If not then published, they may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor declines them.
Persons desiring special information which is purely of personal character, and not of general interest,
hould remit from $\$ 1$ to $\$ 5$, according to the subject, hould remit from $\$ 1$ to $\$ 0$, according to the subject, as we cannolbe expected to spend time and an
Any numbers of the Scientific American SuppleAnt referred to in these columns may be had at this office. Price 10 cents each.
(1) T. W. F. writes: After cutting down a large pine tree I counted 124 rings. How old does
this make the tree? Some claim that one, and others this make the tree? Some claim that one, and others
say that two rings are made each year, and some that say that two rings are made each year, and some that
none are made the first ten years in the growth of the none are made the irst ten years in the growth of the
tree. A. One ring formed each year. The tree is $12 t$ (2) W. H. C. asks: What will dissolve rubber and evaporate readily so that it can be used in mending rubber boots? A. Cut the rubbber, gum rubber (common vulcanized rubber cannot be used). into thin shreds, digest it in a corked bottle wish eight or
ten times its weigbt of warm benzole. Shake the bottle ten times its weigbt of warm benzole. Shake the bottle
occasionally, and after several hours add more of the sol vent if necessary.
(3) C. D. A. asks how to remove the bone from the inside of a buffalo's horn. A. The bone may
be loosened by soaking the horn in soft water for some be loos
time.
(4) C. G. H. asks: What will remove the tain of nitro-muriatic acid from dark woolen goods. . Nothing-aqua regia destroys the coloring matter.
(.) G. L. K. asks: In what way can wood be prepared to prevent worms from working in it in
at or sea water? A. Impregnate with creosote water or the " heavy oil " from coal tar distillation.
(6) J. M. asks how rosin oil and spirits fosin are made. A. Heat the rosin in a metal retort provided with a large condenser. Tha rosin yields
about 74 per cent of liquid distillates. The first portions are yellow, strong smelling, and mobile, called
essence of rosin or rosin spirit. Later in the distillaessence of rosin or rosin spirit. Later in the distilla-
tion a viscid fluorescent oil (pinolin) passes over. This tion a viscid fluores
is called rosin oil.
(7) J. F. asks how steam gauge dials are plated; and what kind of black cement is used in filling
the figures. A. Electroplate with silver and immerse for a few moments in a mixture of equal measures of water and nitric acid, to frost; rinse in running water, dry in hot sawdust, when thoroughly dry use a scft
brush to clean and burnish the parts required to be bright. For filling the figure mix fine oil asphaltum with a sufficient quantity of ivory black in impalpable

