ARREST OF DEVELOPMENT BY UNFAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT.

BATRACHOPHILUS writes: "D. H. G.'s" experience (JOURNAL, March 10th, p. 569) in the rearing of toad's tadpoles is of high interest, and bears on the relation between the axolotl and amblystoma luridum, and on the curious phenomenon of pseudio paradoza, which becomes much smaller when it changes from the tadpole to the perfect state. "D. H. G." should also repeat Griesheim's and Pfliger's experiments on the proportion of the sexes in frogs in relation to the place of birth and the rearing of their tadpoles (London Medical Record, March, 1883, p. 78).

THE PALMER CASE.

MR. T. MADDEN STONE (King's Road, Wimbledon) writes: If the Rev. Dr. Haughton had said brother and wife instead of mother of Palmer he would have been quite correct. I am afraid I shall come in for some of Mr. J. Voss Solomon's strictures by stating, without any wish to "paint the devil blacker than he is," that I have in my large collection of medical and general autographs a letter from William Palmer to the Secretary of the New Equitable Life Assurance Office, stating he wished to insure his wife's life for £2,000, and not as many hundreds, as the secretary supposed and had accepted. This letter, and another respecting the insurance of the life of his brother Walter, would have been produced, as Dr. Haughton states, had he been acquitted of the murder of his friend, Mr. Cooke.

A PHYSIOLOGICAL CHARADE Pronounced as one letter, and written with three. Two letters there are, and two only in me am double, am single, am black, blue, and grey, am read from both ends, and the same either way; I am restless and wandering, steady and fixed, And you know not one hour what I may be the next; I melt and I kindle, beseech and defy. I meit and I kindle, beseech and dely,
I am watery and moist, I am fiery and dry;
I am scornful and scowling, compassionale, meek,
I am light, I am dark, I am strong, I am weak.
I am sluggish and dead, I am lively and bright,
I am sharp, I am flat, I am left, I am right:
I am piercing and clear, I am heavy and dull,
Expressive and languid, contracted and full;
I am careless and vacent I search and I have I am careless and vacant, I search and I pry, And judge, and decide, and examine, and try; I'm a globe, and a mirror, a window, a door, An index, an organ, and fifty things more. I belong to all animals under the sun, And to those which were long understood to have none. By some I am said to exist in the mind, And am found in potatoes, and needles, and wind. Three jackets I own, of glass, water, and horn, And I wore them all three on the day I was born; I am covered quite snug, have a lid and a fringe, Yet I move every way on invisible hinge. A pupil I have, a most whimsical wight,
Who is little by day, and grows big in the night;
Whom I cherish with care as part of myself,
For in truth I depend on this delicate elf,
Who collects all my food, and with wonderful knack, Throws it into a net which I keep at my back And, though heels over head it arrives, in a trice, It is sent up to table all proper and nice. I am spoken of sometimes as if I were glass, But then it is false, and the trick will not pass. A blow makes me run, though I have not a limb; Though I neither have fins nor a bladder, I swim. Though I neither have fins nor a bladder, I swim. Like many more couples, my partner and I, At times will look cross at each other, and slay; Yet still, though we differ in what we're about, One will do all the work when the other is out. I am least apt to cry, as they always remark, When trimmed with good lashes, or kept in the dark. Should I fret and be heated, they put me to bed, And leave me to cool upon water and bread. But if hardened I grow, they make use of the knife. Lest an obstinate humor endanger my life. Or you may, though the treatment appears to be rough. Run a spit through my side and with safety enough. Or you may, though the treatment appears to be roug Run a spit through my side and with safety enough. Like boys who are fond of the fruit and their play, I am seen with my ball and my apple all day. My belt is a rainbow, I reel and I dance; I am said to retire, though I never advance. I am read by physicians as one of their books. And am used by the ladies to fasten their hooks. My language is plain, though it cannot be heard, And I speak without ever pronouncing a word. Some call me a diamond, some say I am jet, Others talk of my water, or how I am set. I'm a borough in England, in Scotland a stream, And an isle of the sea in the I rishman's dream. The earth without me would no loveliness wear, And sun, moon, and stars, at my wish disappear; Yet so frail is my tenure, so brittle my joy. That a speck gives me pain, and a drop can destroy. That a speck gives me pain, and a drop can destroy.

COMMUNICATIONS. LETTERS, etc., have been received from:

Capt. R. J. Corbett, Betchworth; Mr. J. B. Okell, Leicester; Professor
Grainger Stewart, Edinburgh; Mr. A. Anderson, Jersey; Dr. T. D. Reed,
Montreal; Mr. F. R. Humphreys, London; Mr. Adams Frost, London;
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BOOKS, ETC. RECEIVED.

Diseases of Man: Data of their Nomenclature, Classification, and Genesis. By John W. S. Gouley, M.D. New York: J. H. Vail and Co.; London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.

Infant Feeding and Infant Foods. By James McNaught, M.D. Manchester John Heywood. 1888.

The Geological History of Plants. By Sir J. William Dawson, C.M.G., Ll.D., F.R.S. With Illustrations. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1888.

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