but otherwise in good condition. The following day he vomited, and as long as he lived continued to vomit at intervals of varying lengths. The animal ate voraciously, yet always seemed ravenously hungry, and withal became thinner and thinner. Excretion per bowels almost absent. Food retained for some hours was eventually ejected in almost the same condition as swallowed. A fulness about the neck was thought peculiar to the bull-dog breed; it was noticed, however, that any accidental pressure on the neck usually excited recoverification.

noticed, however, that any accidental pressure on the neck usually excited regurgitation.

Obstruction of the gullet by a foreign body was suggested as a diagnosis, but dismissed in favour of gastritis due to cold, the presence of a severe concurrent bronchial catarrh lending plausibility to this theory.

Supported by milk enemata for a month he quietly expired a veritable skeleton. A post-mortem showed the cosophagus constricted like an hourglass about the middle, scarcely admitting a pin (the specimen is still in my possession); above this a largely-dilated pouch, containing an ounce or more of undigested food, and considerably larger than the stomach, which was contracted, empty, with the exception of a little gall, and deeply corrugated, but perfectly healthy. The walls of the dilatation were distinctly thinner than those of the portion below the stricture: at the seat of obstruction they were those of the portion below the stricture; at the seat of obstruction they were so thin as to be almost transparent, the connection between the upper and lower portions being of the frailest character; a little less indeed and there

ower portions being of the trainest character; a little less lineed and there would have been no communication between the two portions.

Intestines empty; gall bladder distended with bile; other organs normal. The kidneys, however, seemed abnormally large for the weight and age of the animal, so far as I could judge from my limited acquaintance with the anatomy of the dog. The excretion of urine was certainly out of all proportion to the amount of fluid ingested, but I am unable to connect this with the

large kidneys.

To account for the animal's living at all I surmise that his dam's milk would trickle through the narrow passage, and thus he was almost as well off as his brothers; but the first solid food stuck against and effectually closed the minute orifice, and hence the sequel.

PHYSICAL STRENGTH IN AMERICA.

MANY Englishmen will be surprised to learn that, according to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Surgeon-General J. B. Hamilton recently stated, in the course of a lecture on "Ancient and Modern Physical Culture," that not one third of the population of the States, of a military age, could pass the examination of a recruit.

INVALIDS' BEDROOM FIRES: ECONOMICAL COAL FIRES.

INVALIDS' BEDROOM FIRES: ECONOMICAL COAL FIRES.

A YORKSHIRE gentleman has discovered for his own requirements a method of keeping in a bedroom fire the whole night without mending. His bedroom, 18 feet by 18 feet, and 11 feet 6 inches high, having two large ordinary windows, has been kept during the entire winter at an average temperature of 58°. His fire is "made up" at 9 o'clock each night in the following manner: about 4 or 5 lbs. of coal are placed evenly on the top of an ordinary fire; over this, about 7 lbs. of very small coal, or rather coal dust, known at the Yorkshire pits as "smudge" are spread. Over the whole, 4 lbs of fine coal ash is evenly strewed, and "patted" flat with the bedroom fire shovel. This fire burns the whole night without any attention, and in the morning the resulting cake of mingled ash and coal dust is broken up, producing a bright blaze. The fire is kept in during the day by the addition of a little fresh coal, and a small quantity of ash strewed from time to time on the surface. The quantity of coal burnt in twenty-four hours is 14 lbs. of best house coals and 7 lbs. of pit screenings or "smudge." This quantity of house coal costs in Yorkshire 1\frac{1}{2}d\tau\$, the pit screenings \frac{3}{2}d\tau\$, together 1\frac{3}{4}d\tau\$ for the night and day. The method has several incidental advantages: (1) it is economical, which, in these days of expensive coal, is important; (2) it will keep a bedroom at an average temperature of 58° during a whole night, without any "mending;" (3) it produces almost smokeless fires, since the layer of superimposed ashes appears to filter the smoke which passes through it from most of its solid carbon. When this layer is broken up, it is quite black with carbon, and glued together by the liquid products of destructive coal distillation. Since nothing is unimportant which tends to the economical nursing of patients, or to the purifying of the air of cities from smoke pollution, we place this method of fire-making on record.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OUR correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication and, with the constant pressure upon every department of the JOURNAL brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion We are compelled to return or hold over a great number of communications, chiefly by reason of their unnecessary length.

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Papers on Surgery, Pathology, and Allied Subjects. By F. Le Gros Clark, F.R.S. London: Adlard and Co. 1889.

Wanderings in Search of Health. By H. Coupland Taylor, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

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Essentials of Forensic Medicine, Toxicology, and Hygiene. By C. E. Armand Semple, B.A., M.B. London: Henry Renshaw. 1890.

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