arch, while others are as constantly joined to it on its inner side. The opercular bones have been already noticed.

A skull of this kind may be taken as one result of development starting from the Lamprey, but a diverse result is reached by a different line of development, exhibited by another series of forms, passing from the Lamprey by the Chimera. In the last named genus there are no true cranial bones whatever, but only granular ossifications. But another animal, the skull of which is formed on essentially the same type as that of the Chimera, shows a step in advance parallel to that presented by the Sturgeon. The animal in question is the mud-fish *Lepidosiren*, which presents us with a single pair of true cranial cartilage-bones, the exoccipitals. This is the only instance, moreover, in which, when any true cartilage-bones are formed in the cranium, the auditory capsule remains entirely unossified. Various membrane-bones are formed on the surface of the skull, representing the parietals, frontals, possibly the palatine, and perhaps the quadrate.

In the Amphibia, the cranium is formed on substantially the same type as in the Chimera and *Lepidosiren*, and always a very large part of the primordial or cartilaginous cranium persists. The prootic is always ossified; but the alisphenoid and orbitosphenoid never appear as distinct cranial elements. In the Anoura, a singular bone (termed *os en ceinture* by Cuvier) is formed, like a dice-box with a median partition in its anterior half. It appears to represent the ethmoid, prefrontals, and orbitosphenoids, united. Nasal bones are formed, and perhaps a turbinal; and possibly the squamosal is represented. There is a cartilaginous suspensorium, a quadrate, a pterygoid, and a palatine, on each side. The hyoid is at first attached to the suspensorial cartilage, but ultimately is suspended behind, and independently of, the latter.

The Tadpole has the mandible formed of two pieces on each side; and the suspensorium and pterygo-palatine rod form a continuous arch, convex downwards, just as in the Lamprey. A ligament connects the rudimentary stapes with the upper part of the hinder border of the suspensorium, and thus indicates the true nature of that part, which thus seems evidently to consist of the adjacent parts of the mandibular and hyoidean arches, fused together. As the Tadpole develops into the Frog, three sets of changes take place in the skull. 1. The suspensorium rotates backwards; so that, instead of forming an acute angle with the long axis of the basis cranii, it forms a very obtuse one. 2. The hyoidean arch becomes shifted off from the suspensorium. 3. Extensive changes take place in the branchial apparatus, by which the essential structure of a Fish (in this respect) becomes changed into a hyoidean body and two pairs of cornua.

In the class Reptilia, we find two very distinct types of cranium. One is that presented by Lizards, Turtles, and Crocodiles; the other is the form presented by the skull of Serpents.

In the first of these there is a great interorbital septum, the basiscranial axis of the skull being greatly compressed laterally at its anterior part, while the vertical extent of the cranial cavity is also there contracted; the lateral walls of the cranium are not thoroughly ossified; and the trabeculae unite together immediately in front of the pituitary fossa.

In the second of these types, the cranium is destitute of the interorbital septum, the cranial cavity continuing of nearly the same depth throughout. The lateral walls of the cranium are thoroughly ossified by bones which form at once the roof and sides of the skull, and arch over its base. If these be cartilage-bones, then the roof of the skull is formed by extensions of the ali and orbito-sphenoids; but it is more probable that they are membrane-bones, and, if so, then the side-walls of the skull are formed by prolongations downwards of the parietal and frontal bones. The trabeculae remain distinct from each other for a considerable distance in front of the pituitary fossa.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE ARTICLE "ON THE VALUE OF PERCHLORIDE OF IRON IN POST PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE."

By HUGH NORRIS, L.R.C.P. Edin., South Petherton.

I OMITTED to mention in my former paper that, as a matter of precaution, I always made a point (on the second or third day after injection, according to the strength and condition of the patient) of well syringing out the vagina with a tepid dilution of Cond's fluid, in order to remove any small decomposing coagula that may be, and commonly are, retained therein, and which might, if not thus disposed of, give rise to more or less constitutional disturbance. This practice, I think, should never be neglected in cases where the perchloride has been used. It is, moreover, usually well borne, and productive of much comfort to the patient.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

The Pharmacopœias of Seventeen of the London Hospitals. By PETER SQUIRE, F.L.S. London: Churchill. 1869.—Mr. SQUIRE is a man who does not weary in well-doing. He is equal to any amount of pharmacopœial work; and he does it so very well, that he is constantly making reappearances in new editions. This most useful series of the formulæ most in use in the London hospitals is now remodelled after the new editions consequent on the publication of the *British Pharmacopœia*. Here is a bird's-eye view of the "household words" of the best London prescribers, regulated by the necessity for a regard to simplicity and economy—two excellent things in prescribing. If they be a little wanting in "elegance", these formulæ at least show what are the working tools with which, in this metropolis, our hospital officers combat the advances of disease. It is easy to understand that this little book is in great request for all who prescribe in hospital, dispensary, and poor-law practice, as well as by private practitioners. It is the most authoritative and least fantastic set of formulæ in existence. It embodies a good inspiration, carried out with faithful care.

Via Medica: a Treatise on the Laws and Customs of the Medical Profession in Relation especially to Principals and Assistants; with Suggestions and Advice to Students and Pupils on Preliminary Education. By J. BAXTER LANGLEY, M.R.C.S., F.L.S. Third Edition. London: Hardwicke.—This useful little book has attained to a well-merited success, as the rapid exhaustion of two large editions testifies. In the third edition now issued, the alterations made in the relation between principal and assistant by the Amended Master and Servants Act of 1867 are embodied, and the effects of the new Sale of Poisons Act are referred to. Mr. LANGLEY has also developed some parts referring to the microscope, and generally brought the whole up to the latest state of law and knowledge. This book has already become a sort of authority in appeal in differences arising between employers and assistants. It is likely to add to its other every-day uses the prevention of many quarrels and some litigation. Thus it bids fair to gain for the author a personal as well as a literary claim to thanks and regard from his professional readers.

Pure Wine, and How to Know it. By JAMES L. DENMAN. London: 1869.—Mr. DENMAN happens to have a strong interest in the diffusion of a kind of knowledge which we are most interested in acquiring, but slow to assimilate. It is hard to believe that port, sherry, Madeira, *et hoc genus omne*, are invariably falsified; yet Mr. Denman proves this, since they contain as much as 36 to 42 per cent. of spirit, of which a part has been added either to check fermentation and sweeten the must, or, after fermentation, to cover the added sugar and bring up the wine to the regulation standard; and Dr. Garrod, in the last volume of the *System of Medicine*, condemns *ex cathedra* this class of wines, and *excommunicates* them by name for gouty people. A pure sweet wine is of low alcoholic strength. A perfectly fermented wine is of high alcoholic strength, but then is, *ex necessitate*, dry, and not sweet, as all the sugar from the grape is converted into alcohol. Here is a formula by which average dinner wines fall condemned. The Greek wines answer the tests of purity. In flavour, they are delicate; and the price is very moderate—some of them very cheap indeed. They are growing in popularity, but unquestionably are worthy of increased attention.

A CHINESE "LORD CAMPBELL'S ACT".—A new enterprise originated a few years since in the city of Suchow, and has since been introduced into other places, which cannot but be regarded with peculiar interest. Its express object is "the suppression of immoral books". This enterprise has also gained the sanction and concurrence of the authorities, and has already done much towards checking the influence of this source of demoralisation. The people are not only requested, but required, to bring such books as have been prohibited to the headquarters of this society, where they receive nearly an equivalent for them in money. Not only books, but the stereotyped blocks from which they are printed, are thus collected at a great expense, and all are together, at stated times, committed to the flames. Several of the standard novels of China, which in a moral point of view will bear favourable comparison with some of the current popular literature of our own country, have fallen under the ban of this society, and cannot now be obtained without great trouble and expense. Instances have occurred in which booksellers, who have continued to sell immoral works in the face of these regulations, have become obnoxious to public authority, and incurred a great sacrifice of reputation and property.—Nevins's *China and the Chinese*.