

large proportion of ash, rich in phosphates; much dextrine, but little starch, and much albuminoid. It dissolves well in water, and appears well adapted for addition to starchy foods, which will thereby be rendered richer in flesh-forming and mineral elements. The appended analysis by Prof. Percy Frankland, which we have partially verified, gives—ash, 10.69; phosphoric acid, 3.68; potash, 4.24; albuminoid, 21.4; sugar, dextrine, and starch, 47.9 per cent. We are inclined to regard the article as an important contribution to scientific food-supply.

BLATCHLEY'S BREAD AND BISCUITS FOR INVALIDS.

(E. BLATCHLEY, 167, OXFORD-STREET.)

The bread contains a definite proportion of added gluten, and the biscuits some flavouring matter in addition—almond, cocoa-nut, ginger, &c. They are, of course, intended for use in cases of diabetes where a partial return to starch is permitted, and, as they are very well made, they are well adapted for the purpose.

KOLA-NUT BREAD.

(THOMAS MICHELHILL, 75, CLERK-STREET, EDINBURGH.)

The virtues of the kola nut, of which so much has been written, are in this patent article introduced into ordinary wheaten bread. The bread so made has a peculiar rich taste, and microscopical examination shows that its name describes it correctly.

DAHL'S DYSPEPSIA CAKES.

(DAHL'S AGENCY, 41, EASTCHEAP, LONDON.)

We noticed these cakes some time ago, but the present seems to be a new form of the staple article. The sample now before us is a brown powder, resembling bran in taste. Under the microscope some cells of wheat starch are detected, but not many. The advantages and disadvantages of the original preparation seem to remain unchanged.

ORANGE CHAMPAGNE (NON-ALCOHOLIC).

(THE PURE WATER COMPANY, QUEEN'S-ROAD, BATTERSEA PARK.)

This beverage is so very well prepared that, without the aid of chemical analysis or personal experience, it would be difficult to believe it was non-alcoholic. It is delicately flavoured, and not too sweet, and has a peculiar fulness or body that suggests sparkling wine. All advocates of temperance should hail it as a formidable rival to their great enemy.

SACKER'S ANTISEPTIC TABLETS (15 GRAINS).

(W. E. SACKER, 79, FENCHURCH-STREET.)

These tablets are made from a somewhat complex mixture, in which borax, benzoic and salicylic acids, and eucalyptol are readily detected. They are intended for definite medical use, and each tablet may be dissolved in two quarts of water, preferably with the addition of a little glycerine.

New Inventions.

NEW FORM OF SPONGE-HOLDER.

THE ordinary form of sponge-holder, as sold by the instrument makers, is not reliable, as the collar which moves up and down on branches of the holder very often slips down while in use, and sometimes at the most awkward times. Having experienced this failing, I had a screw collar made on mine, which travelled on a thread cut



on branches of the holder. This I found to work well for a time, but the thread on which the collar worked soon wore away, and the instrument degenerated into the older form. The illustration represents a reliable form of sponge-holder, the sliding collar, or rather disc, being made to embrace the four branches separately, which effectually prevents

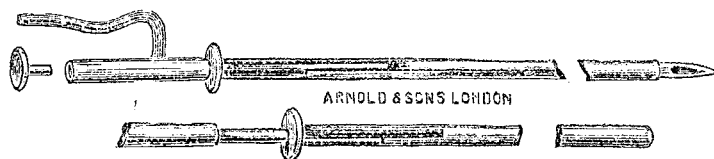
feathering. On the disc being pushed up so as to make the branches approximate sufficiently to embrace the sponge closely, the ring at the base of the instrument is turned to the right, so as to bring the projecting pin into one of the slots cut in the cannula (bayonet-joint principle), which fixes the disc above, and will not allow it to slide down, and so release the hold of the sponge. This holder will be found on trial trustworthy, and can be safely used by dentists, and also for the toilet of the peritoneum, without any fear of leaving the sponge in the abdominal cavity. I have found it a great improvement on the older form, and it is sold at a moderate price by the makers, the Argyle Rubber Company, Gordon-street, Glasgow.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.R.C.S.P.,

Ex Assistant-Master to the Rotunda, and Gynaecologist to Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.

A GUARDED CAPILLARY TROCAR FOR SUPRA-PUBIC PUNCTURE OF THE BLADDER.

THE accompanying woodcut illustrates a guarded capillary trocar which Messrs. Arnold of West Smithfield have lately made for me. The immediate purpose for which I had it made was the supra-pubic evacuation of the contents of the bladder in cases of retention. The ordinary appliance used for this little operation is some form of aspirator. But there is no possible reason for the employment of that rather cumbersome piece of apparatus except the fact that no simple trocar adapted to the purpose has hitherto been obtainable. Now, my instrument has at least the advantage of simplicity. After the hollow trocar has been introduced into the bladder, the guarding cannula is slipped down over



its point, and fixed in position by an arrangement of the bayonet-joint kind. Thus the chance—a remote one, it is true—of wounding the posterior wall of the bladder is excluded; for it must not be forgotten that tradition has handed it down, though I confess that personally I do not place much credit on the tale, that an ingenious operator did once succeed in perforating the rectum before the completion of the operation. The instrument can also be substituted for the needle of the aspirator in various operations of exploration or evacuation, and is obviously much more portable and easy to work with. When pus has to be dealt with, there is always a possibility of a fine trocar like this one getting blocked up. I have, therefore, had a small removable plug fitted on to the end of it, so that a wire may be passed along its entire length without the withdrawal of the instrument. Messrs. Arnold have fitted the trocar, with the necessary length of capillary indiarubber tubing, into a very neat little case, which may fairly be said to be within the holding capacity of that much abused receptacle, the waistcoat pocket.

ALEX. G. R. FOULERTON,

Resident Assistant Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It seems to me that the matter might be most amicably arranged by adopting a method similar to that now pursued in vaccination. The private practitioner performs vaccination, giving a certificate which the parent or person in charge of the child must forward to the authorities. The public vaccinator must send the certificate himself. Now, let the private practitioner sign a certificate that the patient is suffering from an infectious disease (to wit, ———), and let the head of the family be responsible for sending this to the authorities; parochial medical officers, resident medical officers, and dispensary house-surgeons to forward these themselves. It seems to me that this is a solution of the difficulty.

I am, Sirs, yours very truly,

ALPHA.

July 20th, 1889.