gives us such of Johnston's "Parerga" as were issued during their author's lifetime in "final form." A second volume is to include the remaining secular poems, with the "Epigrammata" and other portions of what may be called his fugitive poetry, as also the "Encomia Urbium," written in praise of the several towns of Scotland. The third volume Sir William Geddes means to devote to the minor stars associated as Latin poets with the Aberdeen school; and the fourth and concluding volume of the series will, it is contemplated, comprise the far-famed version of the Psalms, as well as the purely religious Latin poems of Johnston and his compeers. A "Corpus Poetarum Aberdonensium" will thus be formed, of which Scotland in general and Aberdeen in particular may justly be proud, showing that the academic "Ultima Thule" maintained the supremacy of a country which, in the words of Macaulay, though "then the poorest in Christendom, already vied in every branch of learning with the most favoured," and whose sons, with dwellings and with food "as wretched as those of the Icelanders of our time, wrote Latin verse with more than the delicacy of Vida."

This is not the place to enter on a review of the fifty-two "Parerga" composing the present volume. That is done by Sir William Geddes himself, whose appreciation never ignores a beauty nor his impartiality a blemish. Suffice it to say that while in theme these poems are "humorous, pathetic, denunciatory, and satirical," they are "all treated skilfully, often lightly, gracefully, and always with elaborate learning, while they are further characterised by a complete mastery of the noble yet flexible and, with Johnston, very favourite metre—the Elegiac." He can employ, on occasion, "the lofty and sustained Virgilian heroic, not without a measure of success"; but, "as a rule, he adheres to the Ovidian distich, which, more than any modern Latin poet, he may be said to have made his own." On the wings of such verse—"remigio alarum"—we are wafted over the Europe of the Thirty Years' War in the track of the fortunes of the Princess Elizabeth and the Queen of Bohemia. "The glimpses thus obtained," says Sir William Geddes, "into the seething cauldron of that volcano are vivid and enlivening. From his place of observation as a professor at Sedan, which lay on the verge of the burning crater, Arthur Johnston had under his eye the rapid evolution of events which brought ruin to Heidelberg and the Palatinate, and one feels that his earnest appeals for aid in behalf of the Princess anticipate, in a manner, the tone of a 'special correspondent' transported back to the times of Tilly and Gustavus." To this series of dramatic spectacles succeeds an interesting *catena* of "Parerga," describing a lawsuit the poet had at Malines, "Parerga" which his legal friends, like Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, must have perused with especial pleasure. Then we have a charming group of Epistles, also in the Ovidian distich, to his Scottish friends, ranging "from grave to gay, from lively to severe," and finally two other pairs of poems dealing with local and contemporary topics. In all of these there are allusions which, now and again, make the interpretation as difficult as the mythological references make that of Propertius; but Sir William Geddes, thanks to his experience and skill as a classical commentator, backed by researches of his own and by contributions from his friends, leaves but few passages in which he has to confess himself at fault. To every poem he prefixes an argument, which is, in fact, a "condensed translation" of it, and in this way even the non-classical reader can form some notion of the poet's drift, though of course shut out from appreciation of the felicitous finish of the language and the rhythmical cadence of the distich.

The "Parerga" which have the most pointedly medical interest in his volume are the satire on Dr. Eglisheim, an Edinburgh practitioner, who was one of "the physicians to King James of happy memory" and whose learning, possibly from being too much, seemed to have made its possessor

mad. He had the presumption (perhaps from political motives) to deny the merits of Buchanan, and to court comparison with that poet's version of the 104th Psalm, which is universally admitted to be the finest specimen of modern Latin verse. Poor Eglisheim and his rival attempt became the butt of the contemporary world of letters, not only Johnston, but the eminent Dutch poet and scholar, Daniel Heinsius, and his compatriot, William Barclay, M.D., converting him into a kind of literary "Aunt Sally." Equally successful from a satirical point of view is the "Apologia pro Thaumantia Obstetrice, ad Senatum Aberdonensem" (apology addressed to the Aberdeen Town Council for a midwife in the lock-up house of the city); while two others—to Dr. Ponticus and to the King's physicians—are simply masterly, the former as a *mélange* of humour and learning, the latter as a mock rebuke to these grave and reverend seniors for living so long. None of them, however, are so finished as the beautiful poem, entitled "De Anatomicâ Sectione a Julio Casserio Placentino Patavii Exhibita" (On the Anatomical Work set forth at Padua by Julius Casserio of Piacenza). This is one of the finest tributes ever addressed by pupil to master, Casserio (not to be confounded with the hardly less famous Gasserius, the German anatomist, who gives his name to the "ganglion") having been the teacher not only, as already said, of Harvey and Johnston, but of relays of surgeons and physicians of eminence from all parts of Christendom. It is, however, to the second and unpublished volume of Sir William Geddes' edition that this *chef d'œuvre* belongs, and we allude to it now in order that the reader may understand how the interest attaching to Johnston's work goes on, *crescendo*, to the close. Meanwhile we have nothing but praise for the instalment before us, which in its superb typography and its chastened elegance of exterior is as honourable to the Aberdeen University Press as its literary quality and *apparatus criticus* are to the Aberdeen School.

New Inventions.

SEATS FOR SHOPWOMEN.

ONE great objection which shop-keepers and others have raised against seats for women assistants is that if sitting is allowed work will not be properly done. They think that sit-

ting is equivalent to idleness. Another is that their counters have no room behind them for seats. Shop room is rarely abundant, and generally there is only just sufficient space

behind the counter to walk along, so that chairs or stools would be much in the way. I have devised a seat which is

sufficient to give rest for short intervals, which can be drawn out for use or put back entirely out of the way instantly, which occupies no space worth speaking of, and can be made of a size to fit the narrowest intervals. For counters with drawers behind the attachments can be effected on the upright divisions between, so that use can be made of the drawers, or the seat can be attached to the opposite side, as circumstances require. The above seat may be made as light and as little cumbersome as possible, the rectangular uprights being of iron, and the seat of wood, with a little padding if required. The parts shut back flat against the counter, the seat acting on hinges to one support, and being rendered firm on the opposite support, when in use, by a projecting shoulder, as shown in the diagram. Messrs. Lovell and Cox, Guernsey, are the manufacturers.

HAYDN BROWN,
Surgeon, Town Hospital, Guernsey.

COULTER'S VAPORISER AND INHALER.

THE Coulter Vaporizer Manufacturing Co. have submitted for our inspection their "Champion Volatilizer and Inhaler," for which they claim the following advantages:—1 The vapour obtained is non-irritating, thoroughly medicated, and completely volatilized because the reservoir containing the medicated sponge is placed on the inhaling tube at a distance of 8 in. or 10 in. from the boiling water. 2. The machine is simple, durable, convenient of manipulation, and absolutely proof against explosion or fire, as a perfect safety lamp accompanies every instrument. 3. It is very cheap.

NEW HYPODERMIC SYRINGE.

WE have received from Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., of Snow-hill-buildings, E.C., a specimen of "the Pure Aluminium" Hypodermic Syringe. This is a new syringe, which is adapted for use with all solutions for subcutaneous medication and is not affected by any climatic condition. The aseptic packing with which it is fitted does not require any further lubrication than a little water and when removed

from the piston rod may be thoroughly cleansed and purified; the barrel can be rendered perfectly aseptic with absolute alcohol. The packing may be readily manipulated by adjusting the small nut situated directly beneath the knob of the piston rod. The barrel of the syringe is graduated on one side in minims indelibly marked in black, and on the other side in the metric scale—one cubic centimetre divided into millimetres—in red. It is well protected by a sheath of pure aluminium, which renders the syringe absolutely incorrodible and also less than half the weight of the usual heavily cased instruments. A solution of any temperature may be employed, and considerable pressure may be brought to bear upon the piston rod without any danger of injury or disarrangement to the packing. The dental needle with which it is fitted can be quickly and easily taken to pieces and may be sterilised with absolute alcohol. The manufacturers especially advise that the piston should not be allowed to rush back forcibly when drawn down with the finger held over the nozzle, as the proceeding may fracture the tube. The syringes are supplied with two regulation needles at 7s. each, or with one regular and one dental needle at 8s. each. Extra graduated barrels to fit the syringe can be procured for 1s. each, and packings for 2s. per dozen.

ASEPTIC NEEDLE CASE.

WE have received from Messrs. Evans and Wormull, of Stamford-street, S.E., a sample of their new aseptic needle, silk, and wire cases, which should, we think, recommend themselves to all careful and orderly surgeons. The case is

made of bright metal throughout, and can be therefore rendered perfectly aseptic by heat or suitable solutions without damage to itself or its contents, while its small size makes it no extra burden in the pocket. The inventors are prepared to retail the cases, completely furnished with silk, wire, and needles, at the reasonable price of 2s. 6d. each.

BRONCHITIS KETTLES.

WE have received from Messrs. James Allen and Son of Marylebone-lane, W., specimens of their improved Bronchitis Kettles. These kettles are strong and well-finished articles, and with the recent improvements in their construction will, we think, be found to meet all requirements both of nurse and physician in hospital ward or private sick-room. They are made in two forms: Fig. 1 is for use over the fire, and Fig. 2 is provided with a methylated spirit lamp and stand, so that it may be placed in any part of the room or on a table by the bedside in order to enable the patient to receive the benefit of the vapour when the fireplace is so far from the bed that a kettle placed over the fire would be of little service. Both forms are fitted with jointed tubes and fall-down handles for

portability. They are supplied with two end fittings—a jet and a spreader; the latter is most useful when medicated vapour is required, as it contains a small perforated tray, into which a layer of wool, flannel, or felt may be placed, saturated with any medication that may be prescribed. The price of the kettle for use on the fire (Fig. 1) is 7s. 6d., and of that for portable use, with stand and lamp (Fig. 2), 15s. The capacity of each kettle is about half a gallon or a little more. We have previously had occasion to speak highly of these kettles, and we are glad to be able to do so again, as we consider that the small alterations—the addition of handles and rose end-pieces for in-

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

added to their convenience and utility.