continued in the same proportion or in any proportion the anæsthetist desires, or chloroform can be shut off entirely and ether given alone with the bag on or chloroform given alone without the bag. Ether, it will be found, evaporates four or five times as fast as chloroform with the proportion E_2C_1 being used as measured by the indicators. The following are some results showing this:—

Sex.	Age.	Part operated on.	Time under anæsthetic (minutes).	Proportions by indicator.	Quantities actually used.	
					Ether (drachms).	Chloroform (drachms).
F.	44	Breast.	55	E. 2; C. 1.	28	6
F.	46	Umbilical hernia.	47	E. 2; C. 1.	28	4
F.	30	Gall-bladder (bronchitic patient).	60	E. 1; C. 2½.	20	11

I have found that the initial stages of anæsthesia are somewhat prolonged, seven or eight minutes being the usual time to get patients well under, this being due to a tendency to somnolence. Struggling is, however, much reduced. The colour remains very good, the cyanosis of ether being rendered impossible by the free air passage, while the mixture of the two anæsthetics counteracts the pallor produced by chloroform alone. Other advantages are those attendant on the administration of mixtures. I have not yet given chloroform alone by this apparatus but consider it would be safe to do so if no bag were used, the free air-way giving plenty of oxygen. It may be remarked that the respective vaporisations of ether and chloroform vary so at different temperatures that the indicators are of little value whereby to judge the proportions actually being given. The temperature of operating rooms and theatres is, however, nearly always between 65° and 70° F. A little practice will quickly demonstrate the rapidity of evaporation when refilling has to be done and the water-chamber fitted to the ether compartment will help to regulate the vaporisation of the ether.

The instrument has been made for me by Messrs. Down Bros. who have executed the work exceedingly well.

F. VICTOR MILWARD, M.B., B.C. Cantab., F.R.C.S. Eng.
Birmingham.

LITHOTOMY STRAPS.

THESE straps are made of stout webbing and are in three parts. The knee-straps are fixed round the flexed knees, the end of each strap, on which is a buckle, taking its attachment from the outer side of the knee. The long straight strap which in Clover's and similar crutches or straps passes

round the patient under one shoulder and over the other is in these straps made extra long to allow of its being passed round the head of the table instead of round the patient. By this means, the table being considerably wider than the patient's body, which is really comparatively narrow, the knee-, on the long strap being buckled to the knee-straps and

tightened, are drawn backwards and strongly outwards, the separation approximating in extent to the width of the table. The advantages of these straps are: (1) the wide separation of the flexed legs and thighs; and (2) the portability and lightness. They are packed in a soft case weighing less than nine ounces and measuring eight by two and a half by two and a half inches and are made by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer of 71, Great Portland-street, London, W.

Plymouth.

C. HAMILTON WHITEFORD.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1824.

Foreign Department.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE AT PARIS.

(Sitting of the 23d. of March.)

M. ITARD read a paper on the spontaneous development of the prussic acid in the alvine evacuations. He quoted two cases of this kind. The subject of the first case had an inflammation of the intestines, the other presented symptoms of inflammation of the liver. In both the individuals, the stools smelt strongly of bitter almonds. M. ITARD regards these facts as important in a medico-legal point of view, and concludes from them, that the existence merely of the smell of prussic acid in the fæces should not lead one believe that the person had been poisoned with this medicine. M. DELENS related on this occasion several facts, which shewed that prussic acid had been found in the perspiration, urine, and expectoration, accounting for the blue colour of these liquids.

Mr. DUPUY observed, that cows fed in certain pastures gave blue milk. M. VIREY quoted a case where cows fed with the *prunus padus*, exhaled a very strong smell of bitter almonds. The existence of prussic acid in the excrements of these animals was ascertained by the existence of the sulphate of iron. M. MARC related, that in Germany some persons had been poisoned by eating sausages, in all of whom a great quantity of prussic acid was spontaneously developed.—*Archives Generales*.

A NEW MODE OF OPERATING FOR STONE ADOPTED BY M. DUPUYTREN.

M. DUPUYTREN has just performed the operation for stone in a new mode, and with the aid of a new instrument. The operation may be called the transverse operation (*taille transverselle*), and the instrument, the double *lithotome caché*, which consists of two blades, arranged so as to cut at the same time, both right and left in withdrawing the instrument from the bladder. The catheter is introduced, and the membranous portion of the urethra cut to allow the introduction of the *lithotome* into the bladder. On withdrawing the instrument it is opened, by which means it divides the prostate on each side into halves the one anterior, and the other posterior. By this method, the vasa deferentia, rectum, transverse arteries of the perineum, and the pudic is avoided in the operation. M. DUPUYTREN operated a few days ago on a child; since which no bad symptoms whatever has appeared.—*Archives Generales*, May.

J. K. STARLEY MEMORIAL FUND.—A fund has been started with the object of commemorating the work of the late Mr. J. K. Starley who in 1885 introduced to public notice the safety type of the bicycle. The form and extent of the memorial will necessarily depend upon the total sum received, but it is the intention of the committee of the fund to associate it with the pastime of cycling and to make it of general value to the great community of cyclists. Subscriptions and offers of assistance should be sent to Mr. J. C. Parkinson, honorary treasurer, or Mr. R. T. Lang, secretary, at 27, Chancery-lane, W.C. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the "J. K. Starley Memorial Fund" and crossed "London and Westminster Bank (Temple Bar Branch)."