THE AURAL RESERVOIR.

THERE are certain inconveniences connected with the syringing of an ear. The surgeon wants both his hands free—one to work the syringe, the other to draw the auricle upwards, backwards, and outwards. Therefore an assistant is required to hold the receiving vessel. Then the patient's neck is encircled by a towel, which fulfils its purpose

indifferently, and the patient goes home with a clammy neck and a demoralised collar. Messrs. Arnold and Sons have made at my suggestion an appliance which I find greatly facilitates the procedure. The aural reservoir consists of a cup, the back of which is flat and prolonged upwards, forming an ear-piece, through an opening in which the ear to be syringed is passed. It is provided with a stout wire handle, by which the patient holds it *in situ*. It is best held by the hand opposite to the side on which the ear is being syringed, and not by the hand of the same side, as represented in the accompanying figure. The advantages of the aural reservoir are—

1. It enables one to syringe an ear without the aid of an assistant.
2. It effectually prevents the least drop of water from trickling over the patient's neck.
3. It is simple, unbreakable, and cannot get out of order. It is made of tin, bronzed and enamelled, and comes up to the usual artistic finish of Messrs. Arnold's work.

M. J. MOLONY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
Surgeon, Arklow Quarries, &c.

LACRYMAL SYRINGE AND COCAINE HYPODERMIC INJECTOR.

THESE instruments have been made for me by Messrs. Pickard and Curry for applying solutions to the lacrymal sac, and are represented in the accompanying illustration, lying in portable case. The syringe was originally designed to enable patients themselves to inject medicated fluids directly into the tear-bag, and I have found it of great assistance in thus treating severe cases of dacryo-cystitis which had previously remained unrelieved. Both syringe and injector are also specially serviceable for the application

of cocaine in ophthalmic operations, as iridectomy, tenotomy, enucleation, &c.; for when charged they can lie on a tray ready for use with other instruments. The rubber can be easily removed, the several portions cleaned and rendered aseptic, whilst the contents of the glass bulb can be seen and estimated. The advantages of cocaine as a local anæsthetic are so great and so often demanded in all departments of surgery that the convenience and economy secured by the use of these little instruments will be at once understood and appreciated.

Tunbridge Wells.

G. ABBOTT.

THE REPORT ON THE DOGS' HOME.

THE report of the Committee of the Dogs' Home, read at the public meeting on Wednesday, is quite a national document in relation to the "friend and companion of man." In the year 1885 the Home received no fewer than 25,578 of these animals, of which 25,228 had previously been run in by the police and then brought to Battersea. Of the whole number 2236 had new homes found for them, and 2379 were restored to their owners. The remainder, amounting to 20,963 unclaimed, received their euthanasia in the lethal chamber, of which the committee reports "that it has admirably fulfilled all the predictions made in its favour by performing its work with admirable precision, never showing the least failure as a humane agent, but invariably and with perfect efficiency putting to death by a painless sleep each and every animal placed within its walls." To have saved all pain of death to over twenty thousand dogs in one year is something in the history of civilisation that may on a future day rank as a fact worthy of more than the passing note that must now be given to it; but it is right to indicate that as many as 146 persons residing out of London sent animals to the chamber, some from long distances, two from Scotland.

In connexion with the necessary killing of dogs at the Home the report mentions an act of grace on the part of the Queen. By the statute the animals need only be kept living three days, a period in the opinion of Her Majesty too short. The Committee has, consequently, extended the period to five days before sending the animals to the lethal chamber, except in the case of animals that are diseased.

The report is specially interesting on another topic—that of rabies. In the year 1885, 60 dogs suffering from rabies were killed at the Home, or just four times the number of 1884. These rabid animals were found in the various months of the year as follows:—In January, 2; February, 4; March, 4; April, 2; May, 5; June, 6; July, 7; August, 5; September, 2; October, 4; November, 9; December, 10. Mongrels, 15; half retrievers, 2; half collies, 2; half Skye, 1; half pug, 1; half pointer, 1; half setter, 1; half Dalmatian, 1; retrievers, 13; collies, 4; spaniels, 4; fox-terriers, 3; greyhounds, 2; lurcher, 1; poodle, white, 1; St. Bernard, 1; Pomeranian, 1; Dachshund, 1; black and tan, 1; Scotch terrier, 1; bull terrier, 1; Bedlington, 1. Of these, 54 were males and 6 were females. These cases were carefully noted in the first instance by the officers of the Home, and afterwards certified by the honorary veterinary surgeon.

The Committee expresses an opinion that it is desirable, in order that the statistics of rabies may be made trustworthy and complete, that the bodies of dogs alleged to be rabid, whether killed by the police or other persons, should be examined by a veterinarian, who should report to a Government department the result of his post-mortem investigations; also, when a dog exhibits signs of rabies at a police station, instead of a police constable being told off to kill it, a veterinarian should be called in, and in the event of his certifying that the dog is rabid, then the animal should be destroyed by him in a merciful manner. Such measures would, it is believed, materially allay panic in the public mind during the prevalence of rabies by checking and correcting erroneous and exaggerated impressions generally circulated at such times; for it is notorious that the most appalling ignorance exists generally throughout the country as regards the nature and symptoms of rabies. The Committee hope that some such arrangement may be made by the Government, and are glad to state that recently it was ordered by Sir Edmund Henderson, late Commissioner of Police, that a test of this kind should be made as regards a given number of dogs destroyed by the police in the streets of London, whose bodies will be submitted to Mr. A. J. Sewell, the veterinary surgeon to the Home, for post-mortem examination. We need not say that we concur heartily with these sensible propositions, and indeed we feel that the whole report is of a tone which commends itself to the scientific as well as to the philanthropic world.

On the 25th ult. Major Tulloch, one of the inspectors of the Local Government Board, held an inquiry relative to an application by the Cheshunt Local Board of Health for permission to borrow £38,800 for carrying out works of sewerage and sewage disposal.