operation has not been successful a second can be performed without removing the guard. The freest ventilation being allowed, the vesicles are permitted to come and go under

the most favourable and natural conditions, not being pressed upon or heated or sweated as they would be when smothered in cotton wool or kept under comparatively air-tight appliances.

London. HAYDN BROWN, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin.

A PORTABLE DISINFECTOR FOR PRIVATE AND HOSPITAL USE.

THIS apparatus, which is made of strong tin and built up in four sections (which fit inside one another for

FIG. 1.

Apparatus open—in section.

portability—see Fig. 2), is intended for disinfecting clothes, gloves, &c., after exposure to infection, and I am finding it so useful in my practice that I thought it would

interest and be of similar use to others. Formalin is the disinfectant and the disinfection is carried out with little or no trouble and with no nuisance, for it can be used in a closed-up room without smell or perceptible change in the atmosphere of the room and without injury to clothes or furniture. We all know the obvious disadvantage of sending clothes to be disinfected at a public disinfecting place.

FIG. 2.

Apparatus closed.

The apparatus is intended to overcome this objection and will be found specially useful to medical men and nurses.

Direction for use.—1. Fix up the sections as shown in Fig. 1. 2. Hang up the clothes on the hooks of the rod. 3. Place smaller articles, such as gloves, &c., in the moveable racks as shown in the illustration. 4. Light the lamp and drop three formalin tablets into the receiver and slide the lamp into position (see Fig. 1).

The apparatus was skilfully made for me by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, Limited, Leeds.

HERBERT J. ROBSON, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin.
Leeds.

PINE FIBRE FOR MATTRESSES, ETC.

FEATHER-BEDS are familiarly associated with the idea of luxury, but it has now for some years been recognised that mattresses stuffed with fibrous materials are equally comfortable and more wholesome. Horsehair has a well-established reputation as perhaps the best of these substances, and although it has competitors it is not likely to be superseded. Another stuffing for mattresses, which is novel in this country, but is said to have been well tested in America, has been submitted to us by a firm of bedding manufacturers trading as Davis's Feather Mills, Limited, 61, 62, and 63, High-street, Whitechapel, London, E. It is prepared from the long tufted foliage of the *Pinus australis*, the Georgia pitch-pine, or yellow pine of the southern portion of the United States. The finished product to which the name of pine fibre has been given consists of tough, interlacing, flexible fibres, rather stouter than horsehair, curling naturally and averaging from six to eight inches in length and upwards. When in quantity it forms an open, porous mass, freely permeable to air, elastic, soft, and springy to the touch, and to all appearance admirably fitted for use as a stuffing for mattresses or cushions. It is of a dark-brown, somewhat glossy colour, possesses a slight odour somewhat resembling that of fresh pine-wood sawdust, and by reason of its vegetable origin will no doubt be free from any tendency to attract moths which are so destructive to hair or wool stuffings. The makers state that the fibres do not break up or become lumpy, and that mattresses filled with this material have been in use for many years without sensible deterioration. The fibre may be obtained either made up into mattresses, bolsters, or pillows, or in bales averaging about 2 cwt. each.

WESTERN DISPENSARY, BATH.—The annual meeting of the subscribers to this institution was held on Jan. 24th, under the presidency of the mayor (Mr. E. E. Phillips, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin., J.P.). The financial statement was satisfactory and showed a favourable balance of £55. The medical report stated that during 1901 there had been 876 cases treated and 434 patients had been attended at their own homes.