

cent. ; alcohol, by weight 40·80 per cent., by volume 48·21 per cent., equal to proof spirit 84·49 per cent. As will be seen the alcoholic strength of the specimen recently analysed is about that of ordinary malt whisky. The spirit possesses the peculiar flavour and smell of rye spirit. It contains a relatively small amount of secondary products and from this point of view may be regarded as very pure.

MALTICO.

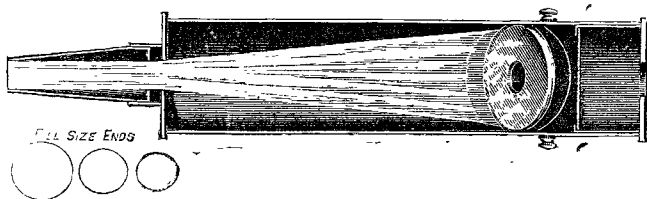
(TAYLOR AND SONS, KINGSTON CROSS, PORTSMOUTH.)

This infants' food is described as being "prepared from the best and purest milk and the extracts of various nutritive malted cereals." According to our analysis it is perfectly free from starch which in the original grain has been converted by the action of diastase chiefly into maltose. Our analysis gave the following results : moisture, 0·90 per cent. ; mineral matter, 3·10 per cent. ; milk fat, 8·40 per cent. ; maltose, 67·81 per cent. ; dextrin, 7·79 per cent. ; and proteid, 12 per cent. It will be seen that this food contains all the elements necessary for the infant's dietetic requirements. It would be an advantage, however, if the proportion of fat were increased. Made with milk the preparation gives an excellent infant food rich in all classes of reparative material. No less than 90 per cent. of this food is soluble in water and therefore it is readily digestible.

New Inventions.

AN IMPROVED OTOSCOPE.

DR J. B. BALL, physician to the throat and ear department of the West London Hospital, writes : "A magnified image of the drum membrane often reveals changes not otherwise discernible. Instruments in which a speculum, a reflector, and a magnifying lens are combined in one piece have long been used for inspection of the ear. Mr. Davidson, of 140, Great Portland-street, has constructed at my suggestion an otoscope of this kind. It is small and very port-

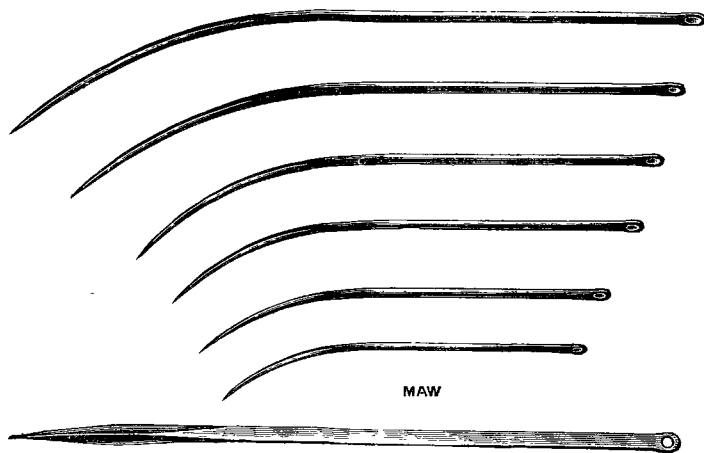


able. The interior of the otoscope and specula, instead of being bright as in the otoscopes at present most in use, is dead black. This brings out by contrast the image of the parts to be examined with striking clearness. It can be used with good daylight, sunlight, or artificial light. It is fitted with three specula of different sizes which can be used separately with the frontal mirror if desired. The interior of the specula is first bronzed and then blacked and they may be sterilised by boiling without the blackened surface being affected. The exterior of the instrument is heavily plated so as not to tarnish."

AN IMPROVED SURGICAL NEEDLE.

IN 1900 Messrs. Maw and Son of 7, Aldersgate-street made to my design a needle specially suited to abdominal surgery. The main features of this needle are three. Firstly, the point, which is triangular or bayonet-shaped, this being, I consider, the best both for penetration and for avoiding the cutting of tissues (and consequent bleeding) which is such a drawback to the Hagedorn point, especially where one is dealing with tissues like the uterine wall. Moreover, the point is an easier one to grasp during withdrawal, either with the forceps or with the hand, than that of the latter needle which invariably either turns on edge or cuts the fingers. The second feature is the eye, which is similar

to the round Hagedorn eye and like that pattern is threaded easily. The third and last peculiarity is the haft, which is flattened at right angles to the plane of the curve in a manner similar to that which obtains in the so-called "reversed" Hagedorn needle. The advantage of this flattened haft is the excellent hold that can be got upon the needle with an ordinary Spencer Wells pressure forceps, thus dispensing with various forms of

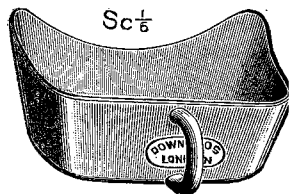


needle holders, all more or less clumsy and irritating, and simplifying the surgeon's outfit. The needles are made in three different curves and in a number of sizes from very large and strong weapons suitable for the various forms of perineorrhaphy down to the smallest sizes required for intra-peritoneal operations. The results obtained from an extended trial of this type of needle both by myself and others lead me to deem it the most convenient needle for abdominal surgery.

Devonshire-street, W. W. F. VICTOR BONNEY, M.D. Lond.

AN OPHTHALMIC DRESSING-TRAY.

THE accompanying illustration represents a tray for use in irrigation of the eye and has been suggested by Nurse Manchester of Guy's Hospital who has previously designed a useful dressing-tray for colotomy cases. The present tray is so shaped as to fit against the face and when used with the patient in the recumbent position it rests on the pillow and adapts itself closely to the face. It certainly answers the purpose for which it is intended and in addition will be found useful when syringing



the ear. The tray is made by Messrs. Down Bros., Limited, 21, St. Thomas's-street, London, S.E.

NATIONAL SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTION, BOURNEMOUTH (OPEN-AIR TREATMENT).—The annual general meeting of governors of this charitable institution was held in London on May 14th at the Westminster Palace Hotel. The annual report of the committee for the year 1902 was placed before the governors, with the statement of accounts showing a deficit of £109, which, added to the existing debt of £431, amounts to a total deficiency of £540. The secretary, however, informed the committee that so far there has been some improvement in the receipts this year. The report stated that a special appeal is being made in order to put the institution in a better financial position, pointing out that the benefits of the National Sanatorium are not limited to the patients who enter it, but extend to the public generally, for every case in which the disease of consumption is arrested removes a source of infection to others. Moreover, every patient is taught the laws of hygiene and the means of preventing the spread of the disease to others and the re-infection of themselves. Upon the national character of its work the committee relies for a generous response to its appeal. The report further states that during the year His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to send a donation of £100.