to its termination in the anus, it measured four feet. I need not add that the portion included in the aperture was in a complete state of mortification. The aperture was round and with even edges, with no appearance that could lead to any reasonable conjecture as to its formation; nor could I learn that the patient had ever had any severe fall or blow upon the abdomen.

I know of no similar case. In the two cases recorded by Sir Astley Cooper of mesenteric and meso-colic hernia, in the last edition of his work on Hernia, the bowel was contained in a sac formed by the intestine protruding itself through one layer of the peritoneum forming the mesentery, separating the two layers, and remaining enclosed between them. In this case the aperture was through the entire thickness of the meso-colon, and through this thirteen inches of the colon had passed and become strangulated.

DENTISTS' EXTRACTING FORCEPS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE very great amount of disease and pain occasioned by constitutional imperfections of the teeth, and the neglect of appropriate and seasonable attention to them, is a subject always deserving our serious consideration—and especially when we have anything to present which will in some good degree diminish the suffering that is too often occasioned by the maladies to which they are subject, or the mal-treatment which they receive from various sources.

The introduction of suitable forceps for the extraction of teeth, has already diminished the amount of human suffering in these operations to an extent which can only be estimated by those of the profession who have long been familiar with dental surgery, or by patients who have repeatedly experienced the effects of the old and the new mode of operating—have writhed under the grinding fulcrum of the German key and pelican, or have had their teeth crushed by the *ancient*, or even modern, rudely-made pincers; and after this, have been separated from tooth and toothache by the dextrous application of well-constructed forceps.

About twelve years ago I had so far succeeded in improving these instruments by a perfect adaptation of their jaws to the various forms of the teeth, that I found they could be used in all, even the most difficult cases, and with a degree of satisfaction, both to patient and operator, which could not possibly be obtained from the old-fashioned instruments above mentioned.

After a full and fair trial of them, I published an account of the result in your Journal, with a plate illustrating the application and advantages of each instrument, stating at the same time, that by them, the use of the old key, &c., had been entirely superseded in my own operations.

I had full sets of them made, not only for my own use, but to supply many gentlemen of the profession whom I requested to give them a fair trial. The result has been, that they have been used and approved in all

parts of our country to which they were soon sent by the artists in Philadelphia (Messrs. Weighan & Snowdon), who had my original patterns.

I have been induced to call the attention of the profession to them at this time, because of circumstances which I shall state in what I have now to add—circumstances which have obliged too many of the profession to resort to the old and more cruel modes of operating in some cases of difficulty, and have caused others to decline a trial of suitable forceps when they have been within their reach.

As soon as a demand for these instruments arose, imitations of them were made by other manufacturers, with little attention to the original design of adapting each instrument to its use by carefully fitting it to the form of those teeth to which it was to be applied; and, therefore, although some improvements were made in the shape and finish of the handles, for the ease and accommodation of the operator, the market has been full of instruments passing as Flagg's Forceps, which bore but a slight resemblance to them, and were better fitted to cut and break teeth in pieces, than to extract them.

Of the artists who have manufactured these instruments of late, no one to my knowledge (and I have taken great pains to be informed), has so closely apprehended and followed out my original design as Mr. Chevalier, of New York. He has lately improved them by a very exact imitation of the original patterns, which I had revised and corrected for this purpose at the request of Mr. T. Metcalf [apothecary, 33 Tremont row], who has shown great zeal and discrimination in providing the best instruments, and all other articles for the use of dentists, which are to be obtained in our country or abroad.

I have used several pairs recently made by Mr. C., and have carefully examined nearly all that he has furnished for Mr. Metcalf, and I have been so fully satisfied with them, that I could not refrain from giving this notice for the information of my professional brethren who are inquiring for such instruments, but are liable to be deceived and disappointed in the purchase of those miserable imitations which I have mentioned.

31 Winter street, Boston.

J. F. FLAGG.

P. S.—Mr. C. exhibited, at the late Mechanics' Fair, in this city, a full set of ten pairs of these forceps, which in form and finish were decidedly superior to any articles of the kind that I have ever seen, either of domestic or foreign production.

HABITS NECESSARY TO THE PHYSICIAN.

THERE are certain habits pertaining to the character of the exemplary physician, deserving our special notice. These are a habit of industry—the habit of patience—and that of economy of time.

Industry is the primal fountain of all prosperity. The savage is indolent, and he is poor. Civilized man owes his comforts and luxuries, his might and glory, to the ceaseless toil of his intellect and hands. Educating from the hidden resources of nature vast elements of power,