economical. We carried out a number of careful experiments with the following fruits preserved and packed in this way: raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, plums, blackberries, greengages, and damsons. In no instance was there the least indication of any action on the tin and not a trace of tin could be found in the syrup, while the colour of the fruit was satisfactorily preserved.

GLYCERINE SUPPOSITORIES.

(S. MAW, SON, AND SONS, 7 TO 12, ALDERSGATE-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

The feature of these suppositories is their shape which may be best described as being like that of a torpedo. They are about one and a half inches long and their girth at the centre is about three-eighths of an inch. From the centre the suppository tapers to a point in opposite directions.

ARSENFERRATOSE (BOEHRINGER).

(DOMEIER AND CO., LIMITED, 20 AND 21, HARP-LANE, LONDON, E.C.)

Arsenferratose contains arsenic and iron in what may be regarded as organic combination. We found also that albumose or an allied product was an important constituent. This combination is calculated to exhibit both the iron and the arsenic in a readily absorbed form and we have read some interesting clinical evidence in favour of its value in anæmia and in conditions generally in which the tonic qualities of iron and arsenic are indicated.

GENUINE CLARETS AT MODERATE PRICES.

(W. AND A. GILBEY, PANTHEON, OXFORD-STREET, LONDON, W.)

That good and wholesome claret may be procured at moderate prices is very well illustrated in these samples. The prices range from 1s. to 2s. a bottle and we have not the slightest doubt that they are genuine Médoc wines which, moreover, possess pleasing, palatable qualities. The analyses of the samples which we have examined gave results which are perfectly consistent in every detail with the description of a genuine Médoc wine. For example, the wine labelled *Bordeaux* and marked 12s. per dozen gave the following results: alcohol, by weight 9.36 per cent., by volume 11.61 per cent., equal to proof spirit 20.35 per cent.; extractives, 2.78 per cent.; sugar, 0.083 per cent.; mineral matter, 0.28 per cent.; volatile acidity reckoned as acetic acid, 0.123 per cent.; fixed acidity reckoned as tartaric acid, 0.450 per cent.; nitrogenous matters, 0.213 per cent.; glycerine, 0.780 per cent.; and tannin, 0.236 per cent. This is a perfectly sound genuine claret of the *vin ordinaire* type. The wine is practically free from sugar and from acidity. The sample *Bâs Médoc* at 15s. a dozen gave the following results: alcohol by weight, 9.36 per cent.; extractives, 2.54 per cent.; sugar, 0.065 per cent.; mineral matter, 0.24 per cent.; volatile acidity reckoned as acetic acid, 0.108 per cent.; fixed acidity reckoned as tartaric acid, 0.453 per cent.; nitrogenous substances, 0.197 per cent.; glycerine, 0.698 per cent.; and tannin, 0.236 per cent. This is also a good sound light wine, showing rather more quality than the previous sample. The sample marked *Médoc* at 18s. per dozen gave the following results: alcohol by weight, 9.36 per cent.; extractives, 2.38 per cent.; sugar, 0.063 per cent.; mineral matter, 0.24 per cent.; volatile acidity reckoned as acetic acid, 0.074 per cent.; fixed acidity reckoned as tartaric acid, 0.457 per cent.; nitrogenous matter, 0.229 per cent.; glycerine, 0.68 per cent.; and tannin, 0.295 per cent. This wine showed a good development of colour, which is invariably the case when the amount of the nitrogenous constituents is higher than usual. The wine showed particularly good æsthetic qualities and was soft and non-acid to the palate. The sample marked *Château Loudenne* at 24s. a dozen comes very closely in character to the wines of "a classed growth." It is a delicate sound wine and well matured. On analysis the following results were obtained: alcohol by weight, 10.08 per cent.; extractives, 2.50 per cent.; sugar,

0.11 per cent.; mineral matter, 0.27 per cent.; volatile acidity reckoned as acetic acid, 0.102 per cent.; fixed acidity reckoned as tartaric acid, 0.446 per cent.; nitrogenous matter, 0.179 per cent.; tannin, 0.224 per cent.; and glycerine, 0.561 per cent. All four specimens show a remarkable similarity of composition which is further evidence of their genuine character. These wines serve to support our contention that really good genuine Médoc wine of pleasing qualities may be procured at quite reasonable prices.

New Inventions.

A MODIFIED OPHTHALMOSCOPE.

THE accompanying illustration represents an idea in the shape of an improvement that occurred to my mind while engaged in testing for ocular refractions with Gowers's ophthalmoscope. It consists of an addition to the instrument of a simple device by which its range and efficiency are increased about fivefold and yet it is neat in appearance and not clumsy to handle. There is nothing new in the principle by which these objects are attained, the difference lies in the method of applying that principle so as to get the best possible result in limited circumstances. As seen in the illustration the contrivance I introduce is a small jointed

Ophthalmoscope showing arrangement of lenses.
Number possible, 72.

crosspiece fixed at the back of the mirror above the original revolving circle and carrying two lenses at each end numbered as indicated — 16, — 8.5 towards the right, + 16, + 0.5 towards the left. By moving these over the sight-hole and combining with those in the disc below as required a succession of whole and half dioptre lenses is obtained extending upwards and downwards beyond what is generally sufficient for all optical purposes. Having tried this arrangement for myself and finding that it gives satisfaction I can commend the instrument as now completed without hesitation to any in need of a sound and serviceable article. I have ordered mine from Mr. Ash, 115, Edmund-street, Birmingham.

Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

M. MACKAY, M.A., M.B.

THE LANCET.

LONDON: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1906.

The Distribution of Cancer in our Dependencies.

THE Colonial Office has performed a service of importance not only to the interests of Great Britain and her colonies but to the whole world, by actively promoting investigations into the occurrence of cancer among the native races in the dependencies of the British Empire. Owing to the range of British possessions sources of information can be employed by our Colonial Office which are unrivalled in number and diversity by any at the disposal of other nations. To Mr. CHAMBERLAIN belongs the credit of having perceived how valuable the organisation of the Colonial Office might be made to the cause of preventive medicine. At the foundation of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund he nominated Mr. HERBERT J. READ to represent the Colonial Office on the Fund, and in 1903 he drew the attention of colonial civil and medical officials to the nature and value of the information which it was in their power to supply to the Fund, provided pains were taken to search for data in respect of the occurrence of cancer and to secure their accuracy. As a consequence the Imperial Cancer Research Fund has been placed in direct communication with all the officers of the Colonial Medical Service. Similar official recognition has been conferred on inquiries in the dependencies within the jurisdiction of the Foreign and India Offices, in the self-governing colonies, in South Africa, Egypt, and elsewhere. The good work of the Colonial Office under Mr. CHAMBERLAIN was continued under Mr. LYTTETON. A small Blue-book has now been issued containing further correspondence arising out of the action of the Colonial Office, and in it we are glad to note a despatch from Lord ELGIN as evidence that the beneficent work will be continued under the present Government.

The correspondence in this Blue-book consists of the more recent replies to a despatch in which Mr. LYTTETON emphasised the need for investigating and recording cases of cancer in a uniform manner, and the desirability of forwarding specimens to London for microscopical examination when such detailed investigation was impracticable on the spot. The publication consists mainly of reports on the occurrence of cancer among certain African races, in Ceylon, Hong-Kong, Jamaica, New Guinea, and the Straits Settlements, and the investigations show the value of the persistence of the Colonial Office in encouraging the search for information of this kind. For example, the reports tend definitely to establish the rarity of carcinoma and sarcoma among the indigenous inhabitants of British New Guinea and West and Central Africa. The reasons for this rarity are probably several but we cannot speculate upon them here, for in the present imperfect state of our knowledge

concerning the origin and spread of cancer such conjecture has no bounds. But quite apart from the difficulties surrounding all research into a disease where the etiology is a matter of debate, the conditions for observing malignant disease in native races necessitate the prolongation of the investigations. Up to the present time few cases of internal cancer have been observed in aborigines and the reason for this is not difficult to see. External cancers are the only ones that can be readily detected by medical officers who have to rely almost entirely on their own observations for obtaining information. Aborigines are for the most part as ignorant of their own internal anatomy, structure, and natural functions as any one of the lower animals and are little likely to vouchsafe trustworthy information concerning the site and nature of abdominal discomfort. In circumstances where ill-health possesses no advantages, even for the malingerer, the difficulties of discovering a large number of cases of internal cancer are not to be under-estimated, and too much stress must not be laid upon the apparent rarity of such conditions.

For every reason we welcome the continuous stimulus to these laborious investigations emanating from the Colonial Office. This is, however, no mere isolated instance of the promptness of the Colonial Office in recognising the importance of questions of preventive medicine and of the value of combining the isolated officials of the Colonial Medical Service into an organisation of trained observers, each able to contribute his quota of experience for the benefit of humanity. The recent advances in the knowledge and study of tropical diseases in Europe and America have been made possible chiefly through the enlightened initiative of our own Colonial Office. What the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine owe to this initiative is a matter of common knowledge. The part that the Colonial Office has played in securing provision for a chair of Protozoology in the University of London and diplomas in tropical medicine in other Universities is not so well known, nor have the unostentatious services which it has rendered in encouraging other Government offices to follow in its wake been sufficiently recognised. But we still have Government offices which hesitate to untie their old red bands in favour of science. The Post Office, without additional expense, or even with profit, could contribute to the development of imperial preventive medicine by facilitating communication where questions of the diagnosis of disease require immediate settlement in the public interest. But the Post Office places every obstacle in the way of the public health officer at home and the isolated worker abroad. The report of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund for last year stated that the organisation developed with the support of the Colonial and other Government offices had been seriously handicapped by a regrettable example of red tape on the part of the Post Office. Small pieces of dead tissue, preserved in formalin and consequently as harmless as pieces of wood, were declared to be forbidden by the Convention of Washington as "articles which from their nature expose officials to danger, or soil or damage the correspondence." This attitude on the part of the Post Office shows that here the Government officials have failed to profit by the