account. It shows one week on every page, has an alphabetical list for addresses, and a space for notes for 1894; notwithstanding this, its small and convenient size renders it absolutely unobtrusive in any pocket. Wallet cases suitable for holding the A B C Pocket Diary and Memorandum Book are provided at a small cost.

New Inventions.

AN IMPROVED LACRYMAL DIRECTOR AND PROBES.

ALTHOUGH I think it highly undesirable to add unnecessarily to the already heavy armamentarium the ophthalmic surgeon has to support I wish to call attention to a slight modification of some lacrymal instruments which I have found useful. I have experienced, and often seen others experience, some difficulty in accurately manipulating the director which is ordinarily sold as Bowman's, because it is

too slender and does not offer sufficient bulk to be comfortably grasped by the fingers. I also have remarked that most of these instruments are too thick at the point to pass into many puncta, and have frequently found it necessary to enlarge the aperture before the director could be passed. To obviate these inconveniences I have had a handle constructed into which the proximal end of the director can be clamped whilst it is being manipulated, and I have had the distal end of it made to terminate in a small button like the end of a Weber's canaliculus knife. After the canaliculus has been slit up and the lacrymal sac opened the handle can be detached and fixed to any probe which it may be considered desirable to pass, much facilitating this process by giving a better grasp and enabling the instrument to be directed with greater accuracy—a point of importance when power has to be exerted. The probes are made of pewter and are of a consistence which admits of being readily, but not too readily, bent and moulded to suit the exigencies of each case. They vary in form both as to their thickness and extremities, and are so inexpensive that with out-patients they may be left *in situ* instead of the ordinary leaden styles now so much in use. The accompanying engraving well illustrates the modified instrument, which has been manufactured for me with excellent finish by Messrs. Wood and Co. of York.

C. S. JEAFFRESON, M.D. St. And., F.R.C.S. Edin.,
Senior Surgeon to the Northumberland, Durham and
Newcastle Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye.

COMBINED THERMOMETER, PENCIL AND CHART TABLET.

MESSRS. SALT AND SON, Birmingham, have brought under our notice a very handy little registered case containing a thermometer and a pencil with a celluloid tablet on which to record

the temperature, thus saving the necessity of separate charts. The pencil is always at hand. The case is neat, compact and well finished in aluminium bronze and will be found useful to the medical practitioner.

"IMPROVED TOILET SPONGE AND TOILET GLOVE."

MESSRS. CRESSWELL BROTHERS AND SCHMITZ, Red Lion-square, London, have forwarded us two novel toilet accessories, named respectively the ablutonic loofah-backed sponge and the ablutonic toilet glove. The former is a combination of an ordinary sponge and a selected piece of loofah (*Luffa Egyptica*), and is made in a variety of sizes for bath and toilet uses. This arrangement renders the loofah much more handy for purposes of friction, and as it is placed over the root, the weakest part of the sponge, its durability is prolonged. The toilet glove is made of a very soft kind of Turkey sponge on one side and loofah on the other, both sides being securely and neatly fastened together. The sponge presents a fine surface, while the loofah can be used for rubbing the skin.

Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

ANTIPYRIN IN LEAD COLIC.

MM. Devic and Chatin have found antipyrin given in quantities of sixty grains daily in divided doses very serviceable in lead colic, both in its milder and in its more severe forms. They consider it far superior to other drugs, except belladonna.

ARTIFICIAL CAMPHOR.

A French chemist—M. de Mare—has devised a method of preparing camphor artificially. Camphene ($C_{10}H_{18}$) is prepared by distilling very dry hydrochlorate of terebinthine; the product is collected in a large globe and heated, ozonised air being then introduced so as to mingle with the vapour formed. This results in a cloud of camphor ($C_{10}H_{16}O$), which becomes deposited on the internal surface of the globe. It is expected that the method will prove a great commercial success.

POISONING BY EXALGINE DISPENSED INSTEAD OF QUININE.

A somewhat novel error on the part of a pharmacist is reported in the *Gaceta Medica Municipal* of Havana by Dr. Francisco Reynery. A boy two years of age, who was suffering from malarial fever, was ordered some quinine powders, one of which was to be taken every two hours. The powders dispensed, however, contained, as was afterwards discovered, five grains of exalgine. The first dose was stated to have been almost entirely vomited about half an hour after being taken; some prostration and two more attacks of vomiting followed. The second powder was given three hours after the first and produced such serious symptoms that the mother sent hastily for the practitioner in attendance informing him that the child had been poisoned. When he arrived an hour after the second powder had been given he found the child's face and hands of a dark-blue tint, which was still more marked in the nails, the scrotum and the penis; the right half of the lower lip and of the tongue was black, there was copious vomiting of mucus, and sweat standing on the head and the upper part of the body; the pulse could not be counted, the heart's sounds were confused, the epigastrium pulsated, and the veins of the neck were very marked, and indeed had been still more so, according to the mother's statement; the carotids were pulsating and swallowing movements were frequent; the epigastrium was tender upon pressure. The child had passed some dark-grey urine containing traces of albumen. The symptoms appearing to resemble those due to acetanilide the practitioner prescribed coffee and brandy, an enema containing ether, and a stimulating liniment to be rubbed over the whole body. On inquiry at the pharmacy the exact nature of the dispenser's error was discovered. Further examination showed that sensation in the lower limbs was diminished. After a few hours the discolouration had become decidedly less, the temperature, which had been a degree below normal, had become normal, the sweating was confined to the forehead, there was considerable thirst, but no more urine had been passed and there had been no more vomiting. The next day some dark urine was passed which contained a considerable amount of albumen; the colour was increased rather than diminished by heat and by the addition of an acid. The discolouration of the skin, the want of sensation and the other symptoms gradually disappeared and by the end of ten days the child was convalescent.