encouraging when performed at a late period, though it may still be sometimes undertaken with success. Dr. Gruening discusses the question of Iridectomy in Glaucoma, and also gives a paper on the Use of the Curette in the Treatment of Inveterate Pannus. Dr. Knapp supplies a note on Caries and Necrosis of the Walls of the Orbit, and Dr. Bull one on Tumours of the Orbit and Neighbouring Cavities. Dr. Standish contributes a good paper on Partial Tenotomies in Cases of Neurasthenia with Insufficiencies of the Ocular Muscles. Dr. Edward Jackson of Philadelphia describes the Decentering of Lenses for Prismatic Effects, and gives useful tables for decentering and of refracting angles, and Dr. Kipp gives some further observations on Malarial Keratitis.

Modern Thought and Modern Thinkers. Explanatory Sketches. By JOSEPH F. CHARLES. London: Relfe Bros. 1890.—This is a small book, but it contains a good deal that is worth reading. A veteran in philosophic study might not, indeed, find within its limited compass much, if anything, new to him. To less erudite readers it presents a clear and fairly comprehensive sketch of the leading beliefs and mental speculations which divide among them the allegiance of mankind. In the treatment of so vast a subject many details have necessarily been omitted, and any claim to originality is expressly disavowed; but the digest contained in these pages affords evidence both of wide and careful study. Special attention has been devoted to the chapters which deal with Biblical Criticism, the Pantheistic Nature Worship of India, Positivism, and the Theory of Evolution, both in its Darwinian form and in its later application, by Mr. Herbert Spencer, to the phenomena of ethics and religion. On the whole, the author is to be congratulated on his freedom from any marked bias; and if in some passages he adopts a tone bordering on enthusiasm, this appears to be rather the effect of esteem for the good which exists in almost every creed than from a tendency to favour one above another. The lightness of style, combined with variety of subject, which characterises this little work will recommend it as a pleasant companion for leisure moments.

Profitable Fruit-growing. The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers' Prize Essay. By JOHN WRIGHT, F.R.H.S. London: E. H. May, Fleet-street.—This is an essay written expressly for the benefit of "cottagers and small holders of land." It is simple in language; it is short and practical, for the competition in which it took the prize was restricted to essays of not more than twenty thousand words, and to competitors who had had at least ten years' actual experience in fruit-growing; and it is at the same time clear, being illustrated by some forty cuts. It deals with small fruit, strawberries and currants, as well as apples, pears, and plums, and with bushes as well as orchard trees. Fruit-growing is one of those subjects on which a correspondence blazes out fiercely in the daily papers every few years, and it would be hopeless to expect unanimity among its exponents; but it may fairly be said of this book that it is sensible, clear, and up to date, and that it cannot fail to be of great service to anyone who wishes to know the pleasures of managing a small garden for himself.

BURIAL REFORM.—The Earl of Dartmouth, in a letter to the hon. secretary of the Church of England Burial, Funeral, and Mourning Reform Association, advocates the use of perishable coffins on the express condition that due regard is paid to the suitability of the soil and other circumstances, and adds that, although cremation is excellent from a sanitary point of view, he sees several objections to it—e.g., the difficulty of detecting foul play from poison, the expense, and the time occupied by the process. The first of these objections appears to him insuperable. Some time ago his lordship closed the vault which had been constructed for his family, and it is now built over by an aisle added to the parish church.

New Inventions.

INSTRUMENT FOR THE RELIEF OF RETENTION OF URINE.

THE instrument represented in the illustration is intended for the relief of retention of urine from stricture. It is made of very flexible gum-elastic, about twenty-four inches in length, and is really a combination of whip bougie and catheter, with the eye placed about the middle—that is to say, twelve inches from the point. The first half or bougie portion is solid, and very gradually increases in diameter, passing over four sizes, English scale, from its olive point to the eye, thus forming a wedge to open up the stricture for the passage of the second half or catheter portion,

which is uniform in size throughout, and therefore follows the bougie easily. In such an instrument as this the weakest point is at the eye. I have provided against this by making one eye only, which is so woven that it is impossible for it to break, even when the bougie portion has been repeatedly coiled up in the bladder. A wire stilette ensures the cleanliness and strength (if required) of the catheter. The instrument will be found in practice a most valuable arrangement. It has been made for me by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, of West Smithfield, in four sizes, the smallest size having its olive point rather less than No. 1 English.

St. George's-square, Liverpool.

A. E. DAVIS.

ANTISEPTIC DOUCHE APPARATUS.

OUR attention has been directed to a new form of douche apparatus made by Messrs. James Allen and Son, 21, Marylebone-lane, W. It consists of an ordinary portable douche (*vide* illustration) made of strong metal, with flat back and base, an outlet metal tap, to which is fixed rubber tubing, with a second tap of vulcanite, for the convenience of the operator, near its extremity. The novel feature consists in the attachment to the side of the main reservoir of a small glass vessel, into which some antiseptic solution is placed for the reception of the vaginal tube immediately after it has been in use. This appears to us an improvement, particularly for cases in which the risk of sepsis is imminent, and its avoidance therefore specially desirable.

LADELL'S REVOLVING READING AND REFERENCE STAND.

THIS invention is constructed to hold a number of books or manuscripts in such a manner that each one can be brought into an easy position to read without disarranging the others. It consists of a number of desks hung between projecting arms in such a way as to maintain the same angle while the projecting arms revolve. It forms a neat piece of library furniture, and will doubtless be found useful to authors, literary men engaged in compiling a work or in extensive research, and to students who have constantly to refer to several books dealing with different phases of the subject of study. The invention may be seen at 99, Dean-street, Soho, W.