equal to proof spirit 1·16 per cent. This specimen possessed slightly more "body" than the previous one, having a decided malty flavour, together with that characteristic of the bitter principle of the hop. Stout: extractives, 2·28 per cent.; mineral matter, 0·11 per cent.; alcohol, by weight 0·53 per cent., by volume 0·66 per cent., equal to proof spirit 1·16 per cent. As might be expected the stout contains more extractives than either of the previous samples. Its flavour distinctly suggests ordinary brewed black beer. As will be seen the quantity of alcohol is negligible and nearly a half below the excise limit. The beers were in perfectly sound condition and evidently prepared from malt and hops and not substitutes. We could find no objectionable preservative. In regard to the ginger-beer we did not find it satisfactory. On removing the stopper most of the liquid was lost through violent effervescence and what liquid was recovered was not of a particularly agreeable character. Perhaps the ginger-beer was too young or had been exposed to a too high temperature.

TURTLE JELLY.

(T. K. BELLIS, 6, JEFFREYS-SQUARE, ST. MARY AXE, E.C.)

Turtle jelly is an excellent preparation for patients who requiring a nourishing article, find it inconvenient to take it in the form of warm soup. The jelly is practically clear and possesses that peculiarly agreeable flavour for which turtle soup is highly esteemed. Obviously if desired the jelly may be soon converted into soup by merely warming. In the form of jelly, however, and of course cold, it will often be more acceptable. The jelly is contained in glass jars sealed with a cork cap protected by a capsule.

(1) IODOFORMOGEN; AND (2) TANNALBIN TABLETS.

(B. KÜHN, 36, ST. MARY-AT-HILL, E.C.)

The idea of combining iodoform with albumin, giving rise to a compound which has been called iodoformogen, is ingenious and one presenting certain distinct advantages. Thus iodoformogen has little or no smell, is non-hygroscopic, and occurs in the condition of a fine powder, which it is said does not "lump." In short, iodoformogen would appear to be much superior for the purposes of dressing wounds to iodoform itself, as while exhibiting the antiseptic properties of iodoform it permits of more uniform dusting, the grains clinging more intimately to damp surfaces than is the case with iodoform. Tannalbin is now well recognised as a useful but non-toxic intestinal astringent. It is particularly servicable for checking diarrhoea. This is to be attributed to the fact that while it is insoluble in the gastric juice, producing no disturbance in the stomach, yet it dissolves slowly in the intestinal fluids producing an astringent effect. The compound is prepared from albuminate of tannin by exposure of the substance to a temperature of 110° or 120° C. for five or six hours. The tablets contain five grains of the compound and they afford a very convenient means of administering it.

HARZBACH MINERAL WATER.

BROWN BROTHERS AND CO., 35 AND 37, WASHINGTON-STREET, GLASGOW.)

According to our analysis Harzbach water is a mildly alkaline carbonated water suitable for table purposes. The alkalinity of the water reckoned as carbonate of soda was found to be equivalent to 0·84 gramme per litre; the salt amounted to 1·98 gramme per litre. It contains also minor constituents—as, for example, carbonate of magnesia, sulphate of lime, and traces of lithium salts. Amongst the specimens we examined some were not satisfactory, one having parted with the excess of carbonic acid gas and another being of a distinctly yellowish colour. Further, on heating the solid residue a very distinct blackening occurred due to organic matter. The method of stoppering the bottles is novel. It consists of sealing the bottle with a thin layer

of cork bound down by metal capsule, so bound under the lip of the bottle as to be firmly attached even though there is considerable pressure within. It is probable, however, that this method of stoppering accounts for some of the unsatisfactory results which we have recorded.

New Inventions.

AN ORI-NASAL INHALATION TUBE.

THIS instrument is for the purpose of inhaling the vapour of drugs such as menthol, oil of eucalyptus, pinol, and many other substances, in a far greater degree of efficiency than has been hitherto possible with other forms of instruments. It consists of a long tube, at one end of which is a mask with metal valves. The mask fits over the mouth and nose. At the other end is a small moveable tube made to open at either extremity and covered at these points by

caps of coarse wire gauze, and this tube is to contain the drug to be employed. All parts of the instrument are made of plated metal. The mask is fitted with a comfortable rubber covering. This instrument will prove of much value in cases of throat and lung affections, nasal catarrh, coryza, or cold in the head, and other similar complaints. The chief advantage with this instrument is that heat may be employed by means of the flame of a spirit-lamp in the vicinity of the drug tube, towards the extremity of the apparatus. By this means an immense amount of vapour is given off from the drug which has been employed, and the patient inhaling this concentrated vapour naturally derives a far greater degree of benefit. The ori-nasal inhalation tube being made of metal is not liable to injury like instruments made of

glass or china, &c. Another point is that being made of metal it can be readily cleansed with hot water, thus thoroughly purifying it. The instrument is manufactured by Messrs. S. Maw, Son, and Thompson, 7 to 12, Aldersgate-street, London, E.C.

Somerley, Reading.

H. HIBBERD BEALE.

UNITED HOSPITALS ATHLETIC SPORTS.—The annual athletic competitions among the London hospitals were held at the London Athletic Club Ground, Stamford Bridge, before a small but enthusiastic gathering of spectators on Saturday, July 9th. The programme consisted of 12 events, 11 of which constituted the contest for the Hospitals Challenge Shield. St. Mary's was again, for the third year in succession, successful with 5 firsts, Guy's and St. Bartholomew's having 2 each. The performances of F. W. Sime (Guy's), A. G. Butler (St. Mary's, who beat the hospitals ½-mile record held by himself), C. E. H. Leggatt (whose high jump of 5 ft. 9 in. also beat the record held by himself), and R. C. Leaning (St. Mary's), were excellent; while in the invitation race of 1½ miles the four miles champion, C. Bennett, only just failed to beat the present record.

THE LANCET.

LONDON: SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1898.

It is impossible to doubt that the action of the General Medical Council in the matter of imposing further restrictions on the employment of unqualified assistants by registered practitioners has met with the general approval of the profession. We have given free admission to correspondence on both sides of this question. We have not been insensible to the hard bearing of the Council's new Regulation or Notice on a certain limited number of men who, having passed through a regular curriculum of study, have, from no fault of their own, been unable to qualify. We have even admitted that the Council's slow and halting action in the past in discouragement of the employment of unqualified assistants has given the profession an impression that, under certain conditions of supervision, such employment would not be condemned. But nevertheless, looking at the accumulating evidence of the misuse and abuse of this license, at the growth of a strong public sentiment against it, at the extensive deception practised on the public by it, and at the manifest injustice of it to registered members of the profession, especially to the younger members, it is clear that the time had come for the Council to advance in the matter and to increase the stringency of its regulations. It is equally clear that the weight of public and professional opinion is in favour of what the Council has done. There have been, of course, a few protests and complaints. In the ranks of the unqualified there are men who have been found very handy, very honest, and very serviceable. Years of experience in a general practice do give a certain education and aptitude. Besides, such men have fulfilled duties of management and of book-keeping and dispensing, necessary duties, the delegation of which greatly relieves the busy practitioner whose clinical duties absorb a large portion of his time by day and by night. It is possible that without any violation of the Council's regulations a few of the best class of the unqualified, whose age makes any other calling impracticable, may still be retained for the performance of such duties. It may be admitted that there is something in the complaint of practitioners in some parts of the country that they have a difficulty in getting qualified assistants. The committee of the General Medical Council seemed satisfied with the evidence on this point. But we can scarcely believe that this difficulty will be of long duration. The average annual excess of supply of new practitioners over the annual loss in the way of death is for the last five years 882. Even last year, when the number of new registrations was less than it had been for nine years, there was an excess of supply over loss by death of 648. In the face of such figures we may conclude that the difficulties alleged to exist at present are due to temporary causes and chiefly to some misunderstanding

between the parties affected by the new regulations—principals on the one hand and qualified assistants on the other. We claim to have given our correspondents on both sides of this question a fair hearing, and we must admit that both sides have shown considerable skill in stating the facts and the conclusions as they present themselves from their respective standpoints.

The time has come for facing what is practically a new departure. Principals and assistants will now do well to see how they can best meet each other's objections and accommodate themselves to actual facts. Some of our correspondents have described vividly the hardships of the life of a qualified assistant—his modest salary, his humble fare, and his hard work. One of them described his work as "slavery, night and day," and said that, as a rule, he had found principals "very selfish." This assertion is refuted by "Practitioner" in THE LANCET of July 9th in a very forcible letter, and we believe that most of those who have had experience of assistantships will say that principals are very like men in other arduous and unremunerative professions who have enough to do to "make ends meet" and to distribute with fairness their modest income between the claims of their family with a necessary establishment on the one hand and their assistant on the other. Not a few such in the after periods of life will look back to their assistantship as one of their most useful experiences, and will recall their principals with every sentiment of respect and friendship.

A young man, emerging from a period of prolonged study and costly education, having succeeded in getting on the Medical Register naturally thinks that his time for remuneration and reward has come. He has been familiar for years with men, his teachers, at the head of their profession, who keep large establishments and expensive carriages and evidently enjoy considerable incomes. He is apt unthinkingly to apply such standards of comfort and dignity to members of the profession generally. Unlike his seniors in practice he has had little experience of private practice and its standards of remuneration, and if in his first assistantship he chances to be located in a small town or a poor rural district he will probably experience a considerable disillusionment. If he is a man of sympathy and imagination he will put himself into his principal's place and make allowance for his difficulties. If he is not endowed with these qualities he will be dissatisfied with his environment and will vent his censure on the unfortunate principal who may be very little to blame. For he is only one of 30,000 men of the profession. He is responsible, of course, for his own character and for the treatment of his assistants, but for the general state of the profession, for the competition in it, for the loosely administered charities which spoil it, and for the low conceptions in the public mind as to the remuneration of medical men his responsibility may be of the very slightest. This last is the real evil which has to be grappled with and for the cure of which principals and qualified assistants must strive together. The employment of the unqualified assistant did give some excuse to those who made light of medical claims; but the Regulation of the General Medical Council will be a stimulus and unanswerable argument for medical practitioners to demand higher rates of remuneration with