advantages just described are obviously available in the bromide of mercury liquid soap which contains 3 per cent. of each of mercuric and alkaline bromide. 3. Kelvolin is a clear brown alkaline fluid which mixes with water with the production of a slight opalescence only, whilst the addition of acid turns it into a milky fluid. It contains phenols but not carbolic acid with neutral tar products purified and an emulsifying medium. The presence of refined coal tar oils confers a high germicidal value upon the preparation. Kelvolin in the form of vapour and as a local application has been employed in cases of aural sepsis with, it is stated, very satisfactory and encouraging results.

PEPTO-FER.

(GUYOT-GUENIN AND SON, 67, SOUTHWARK BRIDGE-ROAD, LONDON, S.E.)

The basis of this preparation is chloro-peptonate of iron which is stated to be rapidly assimilable. We satisfied ourselves that the iron is present in this form, the amount, according to our analysis, being 0·7 gramme in 100 cubic centimetres. The taste of the preparation is unpleasant and very sweet from the presence of a large proportion of sugar. We cannot assign to "pepto-fer" any merit as regards iron greater than many well-known organic iron preparations.

NORWEGIAN COD-LIVER OIL.

(ALF. SPRING AND CO., LIMITED, WEST DOCK-STREET, HULL.)

The sample proved to be a clear straw-coloured oil and free from stale or rancid flavour. The oil was free also from acidity. On applying well-recognised tests for the presence of foreign oils negative results were obtained. The specific gravity of the oil was 0·923 at 60° F. On account of its purity the oil is evidently well adapted for medicinal use.

"MOUNTAIN" STERILISED MILK AND CREAM.

(THE VERBOVEC EXPORT DAIRY CO., VERBOVEC, HUNGARY. LONDON AGENCY: R. SIMPSON SHAW, 17, DEVONSHIRE-SQUARE, E.C.)

These excellent milk products come from Hungary. They all proved to be of good quality and the process of sterilisation adopted must be pronounced a success since we found that the milk differed little as regards its appearance, uniformity, and flavour from fresh raw milk. In particular, the fat has been preserved intact, no appreciable amount existing in the milk in a separated state. On analysis the milk gave the following results: total solids, 12·75 per cent.; comprising fat, 3·48 per cent.; proteid, 3·44 per cent.; milk sugar, 5·13 per cent.; and mineral matter, 0·70 per cent. We received also two specimens of sterilised cream, one marked "single" and the other "double." The "single" cream gave the following results on analysis: moisture, 65·96 per cent.; fat, 24·60 per cent.; mineral matter, 0·28 per cent.; and curd and sugar, 9·16 per cent. The quality of both samples of cream was excellent and the flavour quite good. The "double" cream, as its name implies, contains considerably more milk fat. In no instance were objectionable preservatives found and the products are what they pretend to be, genuine milk and cream, without addition or abstraction and satisfactorily sterilised.

"HUMANISED" CONDENSED MILK.

(THE HUMANISED CONDENSED MILK CO., LIMITED, 24, MINORIES, LONDON, E.C.)

For use it is directed that one part of this milk should be diluted with two parts of water. Complying with this direction we obtained a mixture which, as the following analysis shows, corresponds very closely as regards composition with human milk. The results were as follows: fat, 3·50 per cent.; proteid, 1·06 per cent.; milk sugar, 7·44 per cent.; and mineral matter, 0·20 per cent. The milk is thus not only not deficient in any single constituent but, and this is of equal importance, it does not contain an excess of any one of them. It is important to observe also that the milk salts are retained intact. The sample was in perfectly

sound condition and showed the general characteristics when diluted of fresh human milk.

MAS-DE-LA-VILLE GRAPE JUICE.

(AGENTS: INGERSOLL AND MELLISH, 6 AND 8, EASTCHEAP, LONDON, E.C.)

We examined the brand styled "Château Peyron." The juice had a pleasant flavour of the grape and was free from objectionable preservatives. It contained 16·85 per cent. of solid matter, the bulk of which was grape sugar. On distillation a small amount of alcohol was obtained, amounting to 1·69 per cent. by weight. A certain amount of fermentation had therefore set in and, as a matter of fact, on opening the bottle there was a slight pressure due to the escape of carbonic acid gas.

HONIELADE.

(THE HONIELADE CO., 46, 48, AND 50, BERMONDSEY-STREET, LONDON, S.E.)

The suggestion of mixing honey with marmalade does not appeal to us as a very satisfactory one, though we admit that each ingredient is of excellent quality. We may point out that honey is practically invert sugar, its attractiveness being due to its peculiar flavour depending upon the presence of small amounts of volatile substances derived from flowers. In this preparation the flavour of honey curiously enough predominates over that of the Seville orange. The idea, it seems to us, is akin to mixing sherry with port. The orange and honey are valued for their distinctive flavours and to mix these flavours seems to us to be utterly illogical.

WHITE VINOLIA HOUSEHOLD SOAP.

(THE VINOLIA CO., LIMITED, MALDEN CRESCENT, LONDON, N.W.)

The important claim made in favour of this soap is that it is free from rosin. Our analytical observations enable us absolutely to endorse this claim. We searched most minutely for rosin but always with negative results. The soap is an excellent cleanser and is attractively white and clean in appearance.

ROYAL LANCER LIQUEUR.

(INNES SMITH AND CO., 83, HIGH-STREET, BIRMINGHAM.)

The ingredients of this liqueur are satisfactory but we think that its flavour is comparatively uninteresting, being chiefly derived from the orange. The liqueur contains 30 per cent. by weight of alcohol and rather less than that amount per cent. of sugar. The liqueur has the colour of pale sherry.

BRANDIMINTINE LIQUEUR.

(HALL AND GRAY, 16, WATER-LANE, GREAT TOWER-STREET, LONDON, E.C.)

We have examined this liqueur with the following results: alcohol, by weight 27·21 per cent., by volume 32·98 per cent., equal to proof spirit 57·80 per cent.; solid matter, chiefly sugar, 46·36 per cent.; and mineral matter, 0·50 per cent. It is stated that the liqueur is made with pure Cognac brandy, which in view of its palatable qualities we can well believe. The peppermint oil, of course, gives the liqueur the properties of a carminative, and coupled with the action of the brandy is calculated to increase the flow of the gastric secretion. The liqueur is coloured a delicate green.

New Inventions.

A NEW SPONGE OR WOOL HOLDER FOR DENTAL OPERATIONS.

THE accompanying illustration represents a double-ended sponge or wool holder designed by me for dental operations or other short operations on the mouth in which it is essential to be able to swab away blood as quickly as possible. The instrument is a modification of the existing single-ended

sponge holder and consists of a German-silver rod made in one piece and split for five and three-quarter inches at each end with a sliding catch to keep the wool or sponge

in situ. It is unbreakable, very quickly loaded, and easily sterilised.

It is made by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 43, Wigmore-street, London, W.
Queen Anne-street, W. CHARLES EDWARD WALLIS.

A NEW OPHTHALMIC DROP BOTTLE.

THE accompanying illustration represents a double safety sterilisable ophthalmic drop bottle which has been made for me by Messrs. Down Brothers, Limited, of 21, St. Thomas's-street, London, S.E. The bottle resembles a test-tube in shape and has a safety tube fused into the neck which prevents its contents from escaping; its construction allows of rapid sterilisation without the removal either of the india-rubber cap from the dropper or the latter from the bottle. The pipette or dropper is ground to fit the bottle accurately and a safety tube fused to the aperture of the upper bulb prevents any fluid that has been drawn up into the pipette from running back into the india-rubber nipple when the bottle is laid on its side or the pipette everted. The india-rubber nipple has near its centre a fine longitudinal slit. It occurred to me to utilise this ingenious device of

Bunsen, known as the Bunsen valve, in order to sterilise the interior of the india-rubber nipple of ophthalmic drop bottles. In order to sterilise the bottle it is held in a slanting position over the flame of a spirit lamp with the curved end of the pipette directed upwards until the contents boil. The pressure of the steam drives the fluid into the pipette until the curved end is free and the steam then passes up through the liquid in the pipette, on into the interior of the rubber

cap, sterilising it, and escaping through the Bunsen valve. The valve prevents the admission of external air to the bottle after it has cooled, so that at the end of the process of sterilisation the bottle is entirely free from air and the atmospheric pressure prevents the pipette from coming out. The tube can be carried in this condition until its contents are required, when pressure on the top of the india-rubber cap opens the valve and the pipette can be removed with ease. The bottles are made up in sets of nine and are supplied in the following colours: blue (homatropin), green (methyl-atropin), ruby (eserin), amber (silver nitrate), yellow (pilocarpin), purple (atropin), light blue (dionin), light green (fluorescin), and flint glass (cocaine). The whole set, comprising nine bottles, a spirit bottle, and a small spirit lamp, is supplied in two leather cases, three and three-quarter inches square, which is easily carried in the pocket. Each case is provided with compartments for five bottles, the selection of which is left to the surgeon, but the most useful is one comprising cocaine, atropin, eserine, silver nitrate, spirit bottle, and lamp. As most of the fluids used are alkaloids these bottles are readily cleansed by means of a little strong nitric acid which forms a salt easily soluble in water. The deposit occurring in a solution of cocaine mixed with adrenalin is difficult to remove, but by allowing the acid to stand for some time in contact with it, with perhaps boiling it occasionally and washing well with water, it is possible to remove the greater part of it.

Bournemouth. JOHN BURDON-COOPER, M.D., B.S. Durh.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, Jan. 19th, 1828.

We turn from Dr. BUTTER to a highly respectable but not very temperate antagonist of Mr. LAWRENCE—Mr. COOPER; and we do so, chiefly for the purpose of noticing a passage in his last letter, on which we promised to make some further observations. Mr. COOPER says, he is aware there are many members of the profession who would not only disdain to become writers for THE LANCET, but who decline to read its pages. Now, it is clear, from Mr. COOPER'S subsequent explanation, that he entertains the same opinion as ourselves as to the character of the individuals to whom he alludes. In fact, the ambiguity in this passage, arises partly from the use of the words "writers for a public journal," in a sense which they are not usually supposed to imply, and partly from the misapplication of the word "disdain," where he evidently meant only to ascribe to the individuals in question the affectation of scorn. Disdain can no more be said to enter the feelings of the Bats and Corruptionists who hate and fear THE LANCET, than it can be predicated of offenders who hate and dread the tribunal by which their conduct and character are investigated. Disdain implies a conviction of the weakness of an adversary; the Bats and Corruptionists hate and dread THE LANCET for its strength. Is it disdain which Mr. TRAVERS feels towards the instrument which has enabled the public to contrast his skill as a lithotomist with that of his colleague Mr. GREEN, who, out of forty cases of stone, which he has operated upon at St. Thomas's Hospital, has not lost a single patient? Mr. GREEN, like his colleague, did all he could to crush the rising freedom of the medical press; but if we hesitated on that account to acknowledge his decided superiority to his colleague, we should indeed deserve the scorn, which neither he nor any other member of the profession ever felt for the press when smarting under its severest animadversions. When Sir ASTLEY COOPER, in a silly speech at a public dinner, talked of the "reptile press," does any one believe that the worthy Baronet, whose extraordinary professional attainments are of the humblest description, really felt disdain for that mighty engine whose justly-administered praise had so often mantled his cheeks with pleasure, but whose salutary chastisement he bore with the petulance of a spoiled child? With respect to any imputations which may be cast on the character of our Journal, the best answer to them is the estimation in which THE LANCET is held by the profession and the public, and the declining state, we might almost say the annihilation, of our imbecile and corrupt contemporaries.¹

¹ Excerpt from a leading article.