water, carbonate of soda being the chief mineral constituent. According to our analysis the water contained in grammes per litre: carbonate of sodium, 0.72; sodium chloride, 0.60; and sodium sulphate, 0.19. A feature of some importance in regard to the composition of this water is that it contains only trifling quantities of calcium and magnesium salts. The samples were perfectly bright.

1) ELIXIR OF FORMATES; AND (2) MALT AND HÆMOGLOBIN.
(THOS STEPHENSON, 137, GEORGE-STREET, EDINBURGH.)

1. We have already referred to the use of formates in medicine on account of their stimulating effects and of their increasing the power of resistance to fatigue much in the same way as does caffeine. Their administration, therefore, has been suggested in neurasthenia and nervous prostration. The above preparation contains the formates of calcium and sodium and strychnine ($\frac{1}{100}$ th grain per dose). The elixir is carefully prepared, bright, and permanent. 2. We found the fluid extract of malt and hæmoglobin to be as described—that is to say, it consists of an active fluid extract of malt containing 10 per cent. of hæmoglobin, which is stated to be pure and sterilised. The characteristic hæmoglobin spectrum was well marked and the preparation showed a distinct digestive action on starch.

New Inventions.

IMPROVED VAGINAL PESSARY.

THIS vaginal pessary, which I have had made according to my suggestions by Messrs. James Woolley, Sons, and Co., Victoria Bridge, Manchester, is made of vulcanite and is therefore rigid throughout. The base is broad, and being rigid it possesses the advantage of being incapable of becoming compressed (as in Greenalgh's). It has also a rigid arch in the centre which effectually prevents pressure on, and consequently irritation of, the neck of the bladder. On each side of the arch the base forms a broad support which adds to the comfort of the patient, and since the base cannot become compressed (as in those made of soft rubber) the purchase obtained by these supports renders the pessary

less liable to slip. I consider this a very great improvement on the other pessaries which, owing to their narrow supports at the corners, cause much pain and discomfort when pressed upon by the weight of the parts they have to bear. Though rigid the pessary is easily introduced or extracted and without fear of breaking. I have designed this pessary to meet what I call a long-felt want in my practice. I have used them in several cases of prolapsus uteri with most satisfactory results, and the patients have been loud in their praises and grateful for the relief afforded.

Bolton.

M. J. RYAN, L.R.C.P. Irel., and L.M., &c.

A NEW TWIN CLAMP.

I HAVE designed a clamp, which has been made for me by Messrs. J. Weiss and Sons, Limited, 287, Oxford-street, London, W., and which I have used in my last few operations, and I think it will prove useful to others as well as to myself. It is what might be called a twin clamp and at first

sight appears to be an enlarged Carwardine's intestinal clamp. On examination, however, will be seen the peculiar interlocking points which keep the blades true when grasping a mass of tissue, the single slot which joins the two clamps together thus enabling the surgeon to separate them during the operation without unduly stretching the posterior row of sutures and the fact that the forceps designed to grasp the stomach is almost twice as powerful as that designed to grasp the more delicate jejunum. The length of the blades is five inches and that of the entire forceps is nine inches.

When these forceps are applied and locked together the parts are firmly held in the most exact position during the process of suturing the viscera. I find it better either to separate the two forceps, or indeed to remove them altogether, as soon as the three posterior layers and the first anterior layer of sutures have been introduced, as this allows of unfolding of the parts without tension, and also because a clamp at this period of the operation has ceased to be of any assistance. These forceps may be used either with or without thin rubber tubing drawn over the blades. Personally I have not found rubber necessary.

R. CHAS. B. MAUNSELL, M.B. Dub., F.R.C.S. Irel.,
Surgeon to Mercer's Hospital, Dublin.

GLAMORGANSHIRE MILK-SUPPLY.—The Swansea corporation has decided to call a conference of members of the Glamorgan county council and of the Cardiff and Newport borough councils to consider what steps should be taken to improve the conditions under which milk is supplied to towns and populous places. In his last annual report the medical officer of health of Swansea (Mr. Ebenezer Davies) pointed out that nearly 9 per cent of the samples of milk examined during 1905 were found to be adulterated. During the preceding five years the average was about the same. It would appear desirable therefore that more samples should be taken and proceedings instituted against delinquents. There are in the town of Swansea about 60 cowsheds and in the rural district adjoining there are over 200. It is the condition of the cowsheds outside the town which has doubtless led the corporation to call the conference referred to. The medical officer of health of one of the rural districts in his last report stated that the constant inspections of the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops in his district had very much improved their conditions, but there was a great deal yet to be desired. In another rural district the medical officer of health reported that the condition of the cowsheds was, on the whole, satisfactory and was steadily improving. He also stated that during 1905 there occurred five cases of scarlet fever, one case of typhoid fever, and one of diphtheria on dairy farms.