

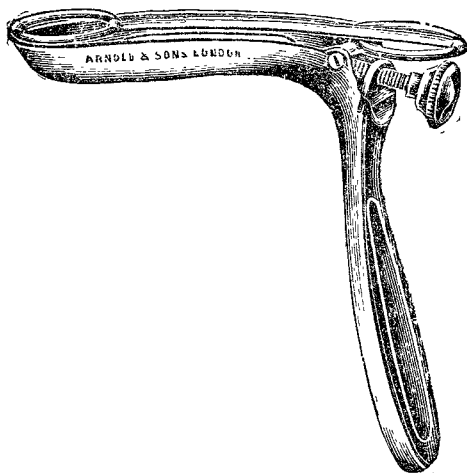
the Science of the Queen's Reign this month is by Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc., F.R.S. Edin., and deals with the progress of geography during the past sixty years. Dr. Nansen's achievements are noticed in a separate article.

New Inventions.

A NEW COMBINATION SPECULUM.

THE difficulty of keeping the anterior wall of the vagina from obstructing the line of vision while using duck-bill specula must be my excuse for publishing the modification (or rather combination instrument) represented in the illustrations. In nulliparæ it is sometimes no easy matter, even with the patient in the Sims' position, to

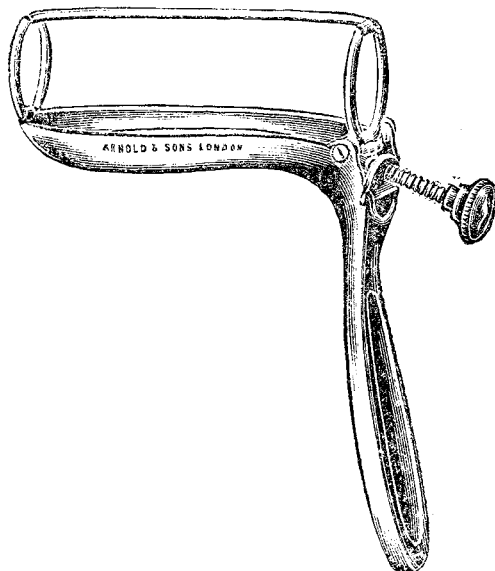
FIG. 1.



Speculum with rings lying flat for introduction.

obtain a clear view of the cervix uteri, the anterior vaginal wall frequently obstructing the view. The illustrations represent the union of my "ring speculum" and Sims' duck bill in one instrument, which can be easily introduced while the rings lie flat; and on turning the screw at the base the rings open at right angles to the duck bill

FIG. 2.



The same with rings upright so as to stretch the vaginal wall.

and force the anterior vaginal wall forward and render the instrument self-retaining. This speculum will be found easier to introduce than the cylindrical speculum of the same size, as all expansion takes place after introduction. The makers are Messrs. Arnold and Sons of Smithfield, London.

Cheltenham.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.R.C.P. Irel.

THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

THE BRADFORD AND DISTRICT MEDICO-ETHICAL SOCIETY.

WE have received a copy of the rules and by-laws of the Bradford and District Medico-Ethical Society. This society has completed twenty-five years of existence, and last year fought and conquered the Bradford School-Board over the question of medical certificates. This matter was fully reported in THE LANCET of July 25th and Aug. 2nd, 1896. The action of the society has also brought about that the minimum fee for a club patient shall be 4s. per annum. There is nothing very remarkable about the rules, which lay down a standard of conduct such as would be generally approved by the members of an honourable and learned profession, but the suggestions for a scale of fees are, we think, worthy of notice. The principle laid down is the following:—

The general standard is ruled by the average fees charged by the leaders of the profession in any locality. Where the senior practitioners of repute are satisfied with low fees the junior and less known ones are necessarily condemned to accept inadequate remuneration. It is right and expedient that, as is the rule in almost every other profession, increased experience and reputation should bring to the medical practitioner also an increased standard of fees, and not merely a larger number of the small fees with which young and unknown men must be content.

This seems to us to be a very sensible way of looking at things. Those who, like Albert Smith's Mr. Kooops, undersell their brethren cannot set a very high value either on their services or the calling they pursue. The following is a portion of the scale of fees decided upon:—

Class.	House rental.		Fee for visit or consultation, to include medicine.	
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I.	Up to	25	0 2 6	to 0 3 6
II.	25 to	50	0 3 6	to 0 5 0
III.	50 to	75	0 5 0	to 0 7 6
IV.	75 and upwards,		the minimum fee to be 7s. 6d.	

In exceptional cases the charges for attendance to be at the discretion of the medical attendant. For each additional patient seen in a house a fee to be charged.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

Such as a first visit or special second visit to be a fee and a half. Night visits—that is, from 10 P.M. to 8 A.M.—a double fee; mileage, beginning two miles from the medical man's house, to be for Class I., 1s.; Class II., 2s.; Class III., 3s.; Class IV., 4s. per mile, in addition to the ordinary fee. Sunday visits and consultations to be a fee and a half.

MIDWIFERY FEES.

Class.	£		£ s. d.	
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I.	Up to	25	1 1 0	to 1 11 6
II.	25 to	50	1 11 6	to 2 2 0
III.	50 to	75	2 2 0	to 4 4 0
IV.	75 to	100	4 4 0	to 5 5 0

In cases of very poor people with house rents less than 4s. 6d. a week the midwifery fee to be 15s., if paid at the time (except in first cases); if not, to be 21s. Extra midwifery services, such as turning, forceps, craniotomy, removing retained placenta, &c., to be a fee and a half. Visits to midwifery cases not completed in twenty-four hours from the first visit to be charged for as ordinary visits.

DOCKYARD MEDICAL CLUB, PORTSMOUTH.

At the annual general meeting of the Portsmouth Dockyard Medical Benefit Society, held recently in St. Faith's Mission Hall, Landport, one of the speakers was so kind as to confirm our statements that lay managers of these clubs do not behave fairly or politely to their medical officers. In moving the adoption of the report this person said that the society ought to have the whip hand of the medical officers and let them see that they were the servants of the society. One of the medical gentlemen had taken exception to certain members being allowed to belong to the society, expressing the opinion "that it was not right for many of the members who were possibly better off financially than himself to be allowed to remain in the society, and he thought some scheme could be arranged to exclude this class of members." This, said the speaker, was dictating as to who should and who should not belong to the society.