volumes on the matter. His former work, "The Lion of the North," described the opening campaigns and this volume gives the end of the war. Hector Campbell, the young Scottish soldier of fortune, goes through a most exciting series of adventures on the staff of the great Turenne. There are some useful plans of battles, but after all "What was it that they fought about?" said little Peterkin."—3. *With Sword and Assegai: A Tale of the Zulu War*. By Captain F. S. Brereton, R.A.M.C. 3s. 6d. Captain Brereton has given us a life-like account of the last Zulu War. The disaster of Isandhlwana and the world-famous defence of Rorke's Drift are fully dealt with. Just the book for an adventurous boy. By the way, surely Captain Brereton is somewhat optimistic in making a compound comminuted fracture of the humerus become "well on the way to recovery" in a week.—4. *In-doors and Out*. We submitted this, a book of pictures and verses, to a reviewer, aged 11 years, who sends us the following: "This book for the young ones is very pleasantly written and illustrated. Although, perhaps, not quite all the pictures are original we find something fresh each time we take it up."—5. *Kidnapped by Cannibals*. By Gordon Stables, M.D. Aberd. An adventure story of the good old kind. Shipwrecks, South Sea islands, sharks, cannibals, and the hero who has started his career by running away to sea make up the "mixture as before," but a mixture which no boy could possibly resist.—6. *Boys of the Priory School*. By Florence Coombe. We took up this book with a slight suspicion that the writer being a woman we might find some of those qualities graphically described by Stalky and his friends as "that beastly Erickin'." But we are bound to say that the book is singularly free from this undesirable flavour. We congratulate Miss Coombe upon a brightly written story.—7. *A Book of Birds*. By Carlton Moor Park. A series of exceedingly clever drawings in a markedly Japanesque style. As is only natural, some are far better than others. Among the failures we think we may mention the owl and the robin, but nothing could be better than the drawings of the flamingo, the pelican, the white heron, the eagle—which is curiously like a pastel by Mr. Nettleship—the delightful penguins, and the condor. The drawing of the raven, though clever, is a libel on a bird of very ancient and renowned lineage. He is undoubtedly wicked—a fact Mr. Moor Park brings out with vigour—but he is a robber knight and not a Hooligan, which part in bird life is admirably played by the crow. The paragraphs of letterpress give a short account of each bird.—8. *The Four Miss Whittingtons*. By Geraldine Mochler. Price 5s.—This is a bright, pleasant book for girls in their teens and is full of encouragement in proving how patient perseverance can overcome numerous difficulties as illustrated by the endeavours of four orphan sisters who were left to support themselves on the small capital of £400. The different careers of the girls are well sketched. The youngest, who was 18 years of age and very clever, wished to get a scholarship and go to Girton; another wanted to become a great singer; another an artist; and the fourth's ambition was to get some work to do which would add to their income and enable her three younger sisters to carry on their training. On the limited means at their disposal this was hard work, but as the result shows their courageous experiment proved successful. Perhaps not the least attractive part of the book is the account of the quiet and unselfish way in which the eldest sister managed the little London home on their small income.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

WE have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons their Album of Christmas and New Year Cards and Novelties, in which excellence of design and artistic production are, as

of yore, prominent features. Amidst so much that is so good it is necessarily a matter of individual taste to single out any particular messenger of good cheer and goodwill to which to award the chief place of honour; but among the new productions which appeal to us most strongly are those represented in the "New Century" (just a little premature, perhaps) and the "Wedgwood" series of cards, whilst new representations in our old friends the "Platino Panels" still compel admiration for what were, are, and must continue to be, strong favourites with us all. Nor is the youthful generation neglected; numerous toy- and gift-books, hall-marked with the good name of "Father Tuck," will afford them pleasure and delight.

New Inventions.

A NEW CRANIAL OSTEOTOME WORKED BY AN ELECTRO MOTOR.

THE cranial osteotome figured below was designed by me before I had read of Cryer's instrument which also embodies the principle of the drill. Apart, however, from this it possesses so many features of its own that I venture to think that it deserves separate notice. The drill, guard, and button are much the same as in Cryer's instrument; the depth of the drill, however, is carefully regulated so as just to engage the skull at its thickest part. In making experiments with drills of various kinds I found that those possessing smooth surfaces gave much the best results. Drills with

parallel, straight, blades were apt to the soft tissues. The triangular drill was therefore distinctive parts are those designed to maintain results are of general shape of and also by the carried on a When in action on the outer surface the button lying face, whilst the the bone between. the axle is made means of the button attached

or curved cutting get clogged with and to cease to cut. bayonet-shaped fore chosen. The of the instruments to obviate friction—steadiness. These tained by the the instrument pair of wheels moveable axle. these wheels run face of the skull, on its inner surface drill is applied to In addition to this self-regulating by spring. When the to the lever is pressed it raises the axle with the wheels as high as may be necessary to expose sufficient of the drill to apply to the edge of the bone. Once the drill has made its groove in the bone and the wheels rest upon the surface of the skull the spring action renders the axle adaptable to the varying thicknesses of the bone so that at all times a minimum portion of the drill is exposed, and the button is kept closely applied to the inner surface of the skull. In this way the dura mater is protected from injurious pressure. The spindle carrying the drill is hollow and a tube from an irrigator attached to its side conveys an antiseptic lotion to its interior; by this means the drill is kept cool when in action. The instrument has been made for me by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, Limited, Leeds.

F. W. ROBINSON, M.D. Aberd., F.R.C.S. Eng.,
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