the wide amplitude of the curve, even with such small fluctuations (amounting only to about 2° F.) as occurred in the cases.

The Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company has also supplied a thermometer for use in the axilla. The clock-work cylinder can be made to revolve more rapidly than once a day. Of course, the charts here given are reduced in size, the actual dimensions being 12½ by 8½ inches. Too great a correspondence between the records of the nurses of the instrument must not be expected.

RONALD ROSS, C.B., F.R.C.S. Eng., F.R.S.,
Professor of Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool.

A TRIPLE-WICK CANDLE.

At a patient's house it is generally difficult, and often impossible, to obtain a suitable light for making observations. This is especially the case when a light for the ophthalmoscope is needed. An ordinary electric lamp simply gives the image of the incandescent wire on the retina unless the lamp glass is ground to a degree that dims the light. A common candle throws only its own small image on the fundus. Every efficient portable electric lamp is heavy and uncertain in its action, and the best lamp of all—a paraffin lamp with a broad wick—is not only cumbersome but soils whatever is near it to a degree that is at last insupportable. A serviceable light I have often obtained by cutting away with a knife one side of two pieces of candle, so as to bring their wicks near enough together for the flames to blend. This suggested the idea of a three-candle wick. After a good many trials the most serviceable is found to be a wax candle, oval in section, 1⅓ inches wide, with the three wicks a quarter of an inch apart. The flames of these blend, forming a flat flame ⅓ of an inch wide, which is a practically adequate illumination. Experiment shows that the light is steadier and better without any form of chimney or lantern. The oval candle (as supplied) is inclosed in a tin tube of corresponding size and shape, with tubular caps to fit on each end to prevent the tops of the wicks being broken. The "wax" is hard and soon sets after the flame has been blown out or extinguished by the cap. The metal casing prevents any "guttering," and the candle when burned down can easily be pushed up from the lower end by the fingers. The dimensions of the outer case are 5 inches long, 1½ inches wide, and ⅓ of an inch thick, a sufficiently small size to prevent consciousness of its presence in the pocket. It is made by Hawksley, 357, Oxford-street, London, W. If a condensed light is desired it can be obtained by a lens on a rod hinged to a metal band to slip over the case.

Queen Anne-street, W.

W. R. GOWERS, M.D. Lond.

UTERINE "FLAG MOP."

THIS little instrument is designed to serve as a substitute for the instrument known as Playfair's probe and I think will be found convenient for all the cases where that instrument is useful, the great point which always struck me as against the latter being the difficulty of removing the wool after use. In my little instrument it is, at any rate, quite easy to replace the lint, wool, or gauze by a clean piece in a moment; in fact, it is the application of the principle of ordinary sponge-holder to an instrument which is intended to be used in cleaning out or making applications to the interior of cavities for which the ordinary sponge-holder is too bulky. The instrument has been made for me by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson of Leeds in aluminium, and either strips of lint or pieces of bandage or ribbon gauze can be used with it very conveniently, and these may be inserted either in the form of a

broad strip placed between the serrated portion, so that the metal grips the material like the midrib of a leaf, or by the edge, so as to make a flag. Turning the instrument round in the hand the material is easily rolled around to make a

convenient mop, and is equally easily undone and replaced when soiled by use. If it is thought advisable to protect the tip of the instrument (which, however, is blunt), a narrow strip of gauze or lint can be inserted between the serrations near the top, carried over the top, and then wound spirally round as in bandaging a finger, and fastened off where required by the moveable collar, which brings the serrated surfaces together. The instrument is sufficiently rigid for use, but can be bent in easy curves to suit the shape of the uterus or any other cavity; and as there is a little projection at two and a half inches from the point it can be used as an ordinary uterine sound if desired.

Harrogate.

E SOLLY, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.

SPECTACLE FRAMES FOR PTOSIS.

Messrs. W. F. Stanley and Co. of Railway-approach, London-bridge, have sent us a spectacle frame intended for the relief of ptosis without operation. To the upper borders of the lens frames are fitted small spring supports which

will obviously keep up the drooping eyelids. We doubt the comfort of the apparatus, but to those persons who dread anything in the way of an operation the spectacles will very possibly appeal. The illustration shows the spectacles in use.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT (FOR 1902) OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE ADMINIS- TRATIVE COUNTY OF LONDON.

III.¹

AMONG the official publications of medical officers of health Mr. Shirley Murphy's present report is quite exceptional in this respect, that it contains particulars of the behaviour of chicken-pox in a vast urban community side by side with those of a concurrent epidemic of small-pox. We have previously learnt that in the early days of the recent epidemic the spread of small-pox in London was accelerated by the circumstance that in some cases there had been failure to distinguish between chicken-pox and small-pox. Accordingly the Council, acting on the advice of the medical officer of health, most prudently resolved to require the compulsory notification of chicken pox to the local sanitary authorities of the metropolis under the provisions of the Public Health Act. Although the primary object of this expedient was obviously the arrest of small-pox, it nevertheless incidentally enabled Mr. Shirley Murphy to prepare unique statistics concerning not less than 25,000 cases of varicella, and these he has analysed with every needful detail, not only with regard to the age and sex incidence of the attacks but also with regard to their distribution in relation to locality and to time. It is common knowledge that varicella is but rarely a fatal disease. At any rate, only a few deaths annually have been attributed to this cause in the returns of Somerset House and probably most of these have really been cases of unrecognised small-pox. Considerations of space prevent our

¹ Nos. I. and II. were published in THE LANCET of Feb. 6th (p. 385 and 13th (p. 456), 1904, respectively.