New Inventions.

THE "CORE" BED-REST.

THIS bed-rest, invented by Mrs. M. A. Core, is stated to be specially adapted for convalescing invalids or for acute cases of heart disease and dropsy. The back is curved (see engraving) and the pillows rest in lengthwise; two are sufficient and a third across the top affords a support for the head. The lower curved band fixes the back, leaving the lower part of the spine to rest solely on the pillows. The rest

can be arranged at any angle, so that a patient may sit upright, or even lie in a recumbent position. There are brass buttons at the back, so that in the case of a long and tedious illness pillows can be more firmly secured by means of pieces of strong tape in which button-holes have been made; the pillows can be shaken without uncomfortably disturbing the patient. Messrs. Arnold and Sons of West Smithfield are the makers.

NASAL PROBE AND COTTON-HOLDER.

THE probe (Figs. 1 and 2) here figured is in part a modification of that of Bosworth in its flat end, which, however, is serrated to within a short distance of its extremity. The other end terminates in a bulb which is smooth, the circular shank being traversed by a screw. Its serrations and those of the Bosworth's end serve to hold the cotton wool tightly when used either for application to or exploration of the nasal passages. Either end may be curved at will, but it is better not to do this if the appliance is carried in the pocket case, into which it readily fits when closed, in the manner shown in Fig. 3. The

FIG. 1.

Probe adapted for use.

FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

Probe closed.

bulb end is convenient in diagnosis and exploration. The flat extremity is also useful for this purpose, but more especially for making applications, as those of chromic or acetic acid, nitrate of silver, cocaine &c., in the contracted space between the turbinate bodies or between these and the septum.

Having used this probe—first made for me by Messrs. Down Bros.—for some few years, I can testify to its extreme convenience and utility. It is also made by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer.

H MACNAUGHTON-JONES.

Harley-street, W., August 1st, 1893.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIDWIVES REGISTRATION, 1893.

THE following is, subject to some slight alterations which may have been made, the report of the committee. "The General Council" is, we presume, the General Medical Council:—

1. Your committee has sat four times and has taken most valuable and important evidence, which, with that given last year at six sittings, includes that of distinguished medical men and women in various spheres of practice both in town and country, and also of trained and experienced midwives from various districts.

2. Your committee are of opinion that a large number of maternal and particularly infant deaths as well as a serious amount of suffering and permanent injury to women and children is caused from the inefficiency and want of skill of training and qualification. They find that amongst the poor many of the women now practising as midwives without proper and working-classes both in the country and in towns the services of properly trained midwives are a necessity, and consequently every precaution should be taken to discourage the practice of women who are ignorant and unqualified.

3. Your committee are of opinion that by legislative enactment no woman should be allowed to call herself or to practise as a midwife except under suitable regulations.

4. Your committee therefore recommend that a system of examination and registration of midwives should be established, and that for the purpose of admission and examination of women desiring to act as midwives the General Council shall be invited to frame rules for regulating: (1) the admission to the register either by (a) practice or (b) examination; (2) the conditions of admission to such examinations; and (3) the conditions of such examinations.

These rules and regulations should, in the opinion of your committee, be subject to confirmation by the Privy Council. In the event of the General Council failing to make such rules as the Privy Council can confirm, your committee recommend that the Privy Council should invite some other medical body to frame or forthwith cause the rules and regulations proposed in the foregoing paragraph to be framed for the purposes required, and that such rules shall take effect as if they had been made by the General Council and confirmed by the Privy Council.

5. Your committee also recommend that the duty of carrying out locally the provisions of the Act that will be required should be placed in the hands of the County Councils. They also are of opinion that greater facilities for the study of midwifery should be provided in workhouse and lying-in hospitals.

6. In conclusion, your committee desire to refer to the apprehension expressed by certain witnesses belonging to the medical profession, lest their interests might be injuriously affected by an improvement in the status of midwives. The great preponderance, however, of medical and other evidence, having regard to both the authority and number of the witnesses, was to a contrary effect. Your committee, therefore, whilst giving due consideration to the expression of such fears, believe that the suggested injury is not likely to prove serious, and they are of opinion that medical men will not only be relieved of much irksome and ill-paid work, but also that improved knowledge on the part of midwives will induce them to avail themselves more frequently and at an earlier stage than at present of skilled medical assistance in time of emergency and danger. On this point the committee had full and substantial evidence.