may precede the earliest inspiratory crepitations of pneumonia. The treatment of the disease is generally well described, but the majority of physicians will scarcely agree with Sir J. Moore's statement, "Many—probably most—pneumonic patients are better without stimulants." We are certainly of opinion that in the majority of cases of pneumonia stimulants are required and that alcohol is one of the most valuable drugs that can be employed in the treatment of this affection.

Blackpool as a Health Resort. By THOMAS CARR, M.D. Durh. Manchester: Abel Heywood and Son. 1901. Pp. 78. 1s.—The history of Blackpool is uninteresting. Much of the information given by Dr. Carr is taken from such obvious sources as the annual reports of the medical officer of health, while an elementary essay on climatology is padding, although the author suggests that the general principles of climatology are discussed so that we may understand the climate of Blackpool in particular. The vital statistics of Blackpool are dealt with in a few lines, Dr. Carr stating that "the practical conclusion that those of us who have studied these conditions (i.e., age, sex, and occupation of the residents) have come to is that scores of people who would either be chronic invalids or have died under less favourable surroundings are living yet at Blackpool." What sort of value is Dr. Carr's pronouncement, backed by unnamed authorities and supported by no figures? In a chapter headed "Cases Specially Benefitted (*sic*) by Residence at Blackpool" it is claimed that residence in the Lancashire town will improve sufferers from (1) nervous diseases; (2) chest complaints; (3) troubles associated with the digestive organs; and (4) constitutional maladies. This is a large order. The last chapter contains notes on the Hôtel Métropole and other hydropathic and boarding-establishments, the names of the proprietors or managers being in several instances mentioned in an obliging manner. We are not favourably impressed with this *brochure*, for we cannot conceive that it will be of any use to anyone except to Dr. Carr, who places under his name on the title page 13 lines describing his past and present professional positions.

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES.

The Journal of Anatomy and Physiology. Conducted by Sir WILLIAM TURNER, K.C.B., F.R.S.; D. J. CUNNINGHAM, M.D., F.R.S.; G. S. HUNTINGTON, M.D.; A. MACALISTER, M.D., F.R.S.; and J. G. M'KENDRICK, M.D., F.R.S. Vol. XXXVI. New series. Vol. XVI., Part 2. January, 1902. With Plates and Figures in the Text. London: Charles Griffin and Co., Limited. Pp. 50. Price 6s.—The articles contained in this part are the following: 1. The Relation of Structure and Function as Illustrated by the Form of the Lowest Epiphyseal Suture of the Femur, by Arthur Thomson, M.B. Edin., Professor of Human Anatomy, Oxford University. The conclusion arrived at by Professor Thomson from an examination of the specimens at his disposal is, that structure in this instance is determined by function. 2. The Form and Form Relations of the Human Cerebral Ventricular Cavity, by J. O. Wakelin Barratt, M.D. Lond. The determination of the form of the ventricular cavities of the brain is shown in this paper to be more difficult than might at first sight appear and to require much attention to details. Many illustrations are given and the result of the method pursued seems to be very satisfactory. 3. The Peritoneum of the Pelvic Cavity, by A. Francis Dixon, M.B. Dub., Professor of Anatomy, University College, Cardiff, and Ambrose Birmingham, M.D. R.U.I., Professor of Anatomy, Catholic University, Dublin, with three plates. The description is clear and the plates are well executed. 4. Salmo Salar, the Digestive Tract in Kelts, by J. Kingston Barton, M.R.C.P. Lond., with two plates. This paper contains an account of the contents of the alimentary canal in a

healthy kelt taken from the Hampshire Avon and of the histological characters of the intestinal walls. Many fat droplets were found in the lacteal system. 5. Some Observations on the Origin and Nature of the So-called Hydatids of Morgagni found in Men and Women, with especial reference to the fate of the Müllerian Duct in the Epididymis, by John H. Watson, M.R.C.S. Eng., assistant demonstrator of anatomy, London Hospital. This is an excellent article in which the nature of the "sessile" hydatid and of the "pedunculated" hydatid is well worked out, the former being shown to be of Müllerian origin and the latter the true hydatid of Morgagni which usually springs from the anterior layer of the salpinx, occasionally from the fimbriated extremity of the Fallopian tube, and which can invariably be traced to the parovarium through the broad ligament. This pedunculated cyst is the homologue of the stalked hydatid attached to the epididymis of the male, both being derivatives of either the mesonephros or the anterior end of the Wolffian duct. The cyst occurring at the base of the fimbria ovarica is of doubtful origin, and is possibly a distended mucous gland or a cyst of the tubo-parovarian duct. 6. Hyoid Apparatus in Man in which a separate Epi-hyal Bone was Developed, by Professor Sir William Turner. 7. The last article is by Walter H. Gaskell, M.D. Cantab., LL.D., F.R.S., on the Origin of Vertebrates, deduced from the Study of Ammocoetes, dealing particularly with the origin of the eighth cranial nerve.

New Inventions.

BILLROTH'S WATERPROOF CAMBRIC.

WE have received from Messrs. L. Paechtner and Co., of 40, Queen-street, Cheapside, a sample piece of a new waterproof material, called Billroth's waterproof cambric. It is said to be extensively used on the continent for purposes where a material is required which is impervious to water. Thus it can be employed to cover fomentations, or in place of mackintosh sheets for use in operations, and for aprons for surgeons and nurses. We have examined the sample sent to us; it is a yellowish material, apparently prepared by some method similar to that by which "oil-silk" is made. We find that it is quite impervious to water, even after prolonged boiling; we may therefore conclude that the makers' claim that this material may be sterilised is well founded. This is a great advantage as ordinary mackintosh sheets cannot obviously stand sterilisation by heat. It is thin and somewhat translucent in appearance, but it seems to be strong. We consider that it is likely to prove of service in many uses for which rubber-covered materials are now employed. We understand that the wholesale price is approximately at the rate of 1s. a square yard; it is therefore considerably cheaper than mackintosh sheeting.

IMPROVED VACCINATION SHIELD.

EXPERIENCE has shown the general practitioner that while some sort of protection should be afforded to vaccination vesicles the less they are interfered with by anything coming in actual contact with them the better, unless, perhaps, a discharging stage should require attention. And for all practical purposes the less cumbersome a vesicle-guard is the better. I have devised one which has been made for me by Messrs. Arnold and Sons of West Smithfield, London, E.C., that seems to me to be as effectual as it is simple. It is made of aluminium and is fixed to the skin by means of oblong pieces of sticking plaster placed over the broadened end of it. Being fixed parallel to the long axis of the arm it meets with hardly any pressure or friction from clothing when applied. One or two turns of a bandage may complete adjustment if desirable. One of the greatest advantages of this form of guard is that the vesicles can always be seen, and treated when discharging, without removing the guard. If it is placed in position after the operation has been performed the wound is kept from being irritated, and if the first

operation has not been successful a second can be performed without removing the guard. The freest ventilation being allowed, the vesicles are permitted to come and go under

the most favourable and natural conditions, not being pressed upon or heated or sweated as they would be when smothered in cotton wool or kept under comparatively air-tight appliances.

London. HAYDN BROWN, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin.

A PORTABLE DISINFECTOR FOR PRIVATE AND HOSPITAL USE.

THIS apparatus, which is made of strong tin and built up in four sections (which fit inside one another for

FIG. 1.

Apparatus open—in section.

portability—see Fig. 2), is intended for disinfecting clothes, gloves, &c., after exposure to infection, and I am finding it so useful in my practice that I thought it would

interest and be of similar use to others. Formalin is the disinfectant and the disinfection is carried out with little or no trouble and with no nuisance, for it can be used in a closed-up room without smell or perceptible change in the atmosphere of the room and without injury to clothes or furniture. We all know the obvious disadvantage of sending clothes to be disinfected at a public disinfecting place.

FIG. 2.

Apparatus closed.

The apparatus is intended to overcome this objection and will be found specially useful to medical men and nurses.

Direction for use.—1. Fix up the sections as shown in Fig. 1. 2. Hang up the clothes on the hooks of the rod. 3. Place smaller articles, such as gloves, &c., in the moveable racks as shown in the illustration. 4. Light the lamp and drop three formalin tablets into the receiver and slide the lamp into position (see Fig. 1).

The apparatus was skilfully made for me by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, Limited, Leeds.

HERBERT J. ROBSON, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin.
Leeds.

PINE FIBRE FOR MATTRESSES, ETC.

FEATHER-BEDS are familiarly associated with the idea of luxury, but it has now for some years been recognised that mattresses stuffed with fibrous materials are equally comfortable and more wholesome. Horsehair has a well-established reputation as perhaps the best of these substances, and although it has competitors it is not likely to be superseded. Another stuffing for mattresses, which is novel in this country, but is said to have been well tested in America, has been submitted to us by a firm of bedding manufacturers trading as Davis's Feather Mills, Limited, 61, 62, and 63, High-street, Whitechapel, London, E. It is prepared from the long tufted foliage of the *Pinus australis*, the Georgia pitch-pine, or yellow pine of the southern portion of the United States. The finished product to which the name of pine fibre has been given consists of tough, interlacing, flexible fibres, rather stouter than horsehair, curling naturally and averaging from six to eight inches in length and upwards. When in quantity it forms an open, porous mass, freely permeable to air, elastic, soft, and springy to the touch, and to all appearance admirably fitted for use as a stuffing for mattresses or cushions. It is of a dark-brown, somewhat glossy colour, possesses a slight odour somewhat resembling that of fresh pine-wood sawdust, and by reason of its vegetable origin will no doubt be free from any tendency to attract moths which are so destructive to hair or wool stuffings. The makers state that the fibres do not break up or become lumpy, and that mattresses filled with this material have been in use for many years without sensible deterioration. The fibre may be obtained either made up into mattresses, bolsters, or pillows, or in bales averaging about 2 cwt. each.

WESTERN DISPENSARY, BATH.—The annual meeting of the subscribers to this institution was held on Jan. 24th, under the presidency of the mayor (Mr. E. E. Phillips, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin., J.P.). The financial statement was satisfactory and showed a favourable balance of £55. The medical report stated that during 1901 there had been 876 cases treated and 434 patients had been attended at their own homes.