graduated tube contains but three marks—viz., one at 75°, which marks the temperature for a tepid bath; the second at 98·4°, the temperature of a child's body and the temperature to which water should be raised when a warm bath is required; the third at 103°, which marks the temperature of the water when a hot bath is required. This easy system

of marking cannot but be very useful to nurses. We have tested these thermometers against registered instruments, and find Hick's patent to correspond with the readings of those registered instruments in all cases. These instruments are useful in every household, and their cheapness renders them easily accessible.

A NEW EAR SYRINGE.

MESSRS. C. WRIGHT AND CO. of New Bond-street, have submitted to us an ear syringe for the use of patients and nurses. It is not always an easy matter to provide a syringe

which will be used effectually by unskilled persons, and at the same time it is, in certain inflammatory diseases of the ear attended with profuse discharge, most necessary that the

ear should be completely cleansed several times in the course of the day. This syringe ensures two requirements:—1st. The stream of water or other fluid passes along the roof of the canal and so the ear is thoroughly cleansed. 2nd. No injury can be done to the ear, as the nozzle is so constructed that it cannot be inserted too far. The ingenious arrangement which secures this also forms a passage for the returning stream of fluid.

A NEW BANDAGE ROLLER.

MR. JAMES BELLAERS of Regent-street, Leicester, has submitted to us a new bandage roller, which is so constructed that it can be instantly adjusted to any width of bandage. The machine being made of metal is easily kept clean and is a distinct improvement upon many of the old bandage rollers. It is portable, light and strong, qualities which render it useful for first-aid work and nursing classes. It can be readily and securely fixed on any table.

AN IMPROVED ASEPTIC AXIS-TRACTION FORCEPS.

MESSRS. WALTERS AND CO. of Moorgate-street, E.C., have manufactured for me a new axis-traction midwifery forceps which is at once efficient, simple and cleanly. The instrument is made entirely of steel (plated) and the surface is perfectly smooth throughout, affording no nidus for the lodgment of disease germs, while the whole instrument can be plunged in boiling water or otherwise purified. The blades are of the usual shape. A Barnes' foramen is placed at the lock for use if necessary when the head is at the outlet. Beyond the lock there is a perineal curve, exactly counteracting the pelvic curve of the blades. Longitudinal handles are abandoned. At the extremity of the perineal curve (where it meets the axial line) there is a movable transverse traction rod and a second foramen (between the parts of the forceps) to receive the middle finger, thus forming a very comfortable hold for the operator. The traction rod also secures the two halves of the forceps when in position, being provided with two lateral rings, one fixed and one movable (the latter running freely by screw action), so as to embrace the extremity of the forceps. The forceps is about an inch longer than Sir J. Simpson's. This forceps, while as efficient as the usual axis-traction forceps, is less complicated and less likely to retain septic material. The fault of forceps with a perineal curve (without added tractors) has generally been that they have been provided with longitudinal (wooden) handles, ignoring the fact that traction can only be efficiently applied at one point—viz., where the perineal curve meets the axial line. To sum up, I claim for the forceps that it is (1) efficient, (2) aseptic, (3) simple in its mechanism and (4) comfortable for the operator.

Winchester.

G. TAYLOR, M.B.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATES.—Dr. Robert McPherson of Stalybridge, Mr. Henry R. Leech, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., of Birmingham, and Dr. Joseph Thornley of Bolton, have been added to the Commission of the Peace for the boroughs of Stalybridge, Birmingham and Bolton respectively.

THE LANCET.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1892.

WITHIN a very few days two remarkable men have died—Dr. WALTER HAYLE WALSHE and Sir RICHARD OWEN. In our obituary column of this week we have sketched the principal features and events in the long and fruitful life of Sir RICHARD OWEN, which is full of suggestion and stimulus to those who consider it. Next week we hope to notice in some detail the life and work of Dr. WALSHE. Both of them illustrate the longevity of scientific men. Indeed, both of them had outlived most of their contemporaries, though happily neither of them had outlived his fame. It is gratifying to think not only that both of these great men were members of the medical profession, but that to both of them this profession was the stimulus of their genius and the basis of their enduring work. It is difficult to go back to the time when RICHARD OWEN was a medical practitioner. His name had for years dropped out of even the Medical Register. But for all that his life began with the study of anatomy and medicine in Edinburgh and he was in practice for some time in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's-inn. His genius was recognised by ABERNETHY and other members of the profession, and in the Hunterian Museum of the College of Surgeons he found the first scene and opportunity of his most useful and laborious work. Though his attitude towards the greatest anatomical conceptions of the century has been somewhat conservative; though his recognition of the doctrine of evolution has been, to say the least halting, it is impossible not to see even in his own anatomical work a large part of the foundations on which that great doctrine has been based. We can well imagine the intensity of the feeling that DARWIN confessed to Sir CHARLES LYELL when he wrote—"How curious I shall be to know what line OWEN will take: dead against us, I fear." Nevertheless it is most gratifying to read further that "he wrote me a most liberal note on the reception of my book, and said he was quite prepared to consider fairly and without prejudice my line of argument." DARWIN considered that OWEN had suggested belief in the unity of Origin of Birds, and OWEN himself made claims to having discovered the principle of Natural Selection, though DARWIN said that whether OWEN or he were first, both of them were preceded by Dr. WELLS and Mr. MATTHEW. No one can be surprised that OWEN at fifty-five years of age, as he was when the "Origin of Species" appeared, should think conservatively. What is more curious than divergence of opinion on great and novel doctrines and generalisations is the opposition of giants in science on questions of fact as in the famous scene in the British Association at Oxford when OWEN, having asserted that the brain of the gorilla presented more differences as compared with the brain of man than it did when compared with the brains of the very lowest and most problematical of the quadrumana, was answered by Mr. HUXLEY with a direct and unqualified contradiction. All these details will now be forgotten and the world will think only of OWEN's prodigious labours and his unsurpassed knowledge

in comparative anatomy, of his genial nature and general accomplishments, of his distinguished appearance, of his enormous public services in the promotion of public health and of the successful importunity which he brought to bear on rigid economists until they yielded and gave the nation a museum of Natural History somewhat proportionate to its own wealth in money and in great anatomists, to say nothing of the greatness of the subject which it is meant to illustrate.

Of Dr. WALSHE, pending our biography of next week, we need only here say that he was one of the most accomplished physicians of the middle of this century. None that have ever met him will forget the charm of his courtesy as an Irish gentleman, and none that are familiar with the literature of medicine and its modern progress will fail to recognise that he was one of its most enlightened teachers and practitioners. His books are still authoritative and classical. His precision of observation, his accuracy of diagnosis, the carefulness of his anatomy, and the lucidity with which he expounded the new methods of physical diagnosis, which he had studied under LAENNEC, have been recognised by all his contemporaries, from Sir THOMAS WATSON downwards. He was a true physician in the sense of being a student of nature and of facts in the matter of disease. But he was not a mere physician. His mind was of that liberal type that could not be holden of any one pursuit; and, like other great physicians, he took pleasant excursions into the regions of philosophy and metaphysics and even of theology. One of the most recent—we believe the most recent—instances of such excursions and their results will be found in THE LANCET of Jan. 5th and 12th, 1884. It has sometimes been said that the very boldness of these excursions stood in his way and gave an impression of want of reverence for more ordinary or more orthodox views. And, in fact, it must be admitted that he did not so much care for "views" as for truth. In these very articles he estimates that the definite discovery of the relation of the left third frontal convolution to the faculty of language was worth all the speculations of all the metaphysicians in the previous centuries. But for all this, there was no want of reverence in him. And it is only to be regretted that for so many years before his death the world saw and heard so little of one who observed it so much, and who did so much to raise the standard of professional knowledge and method.

THE experience of the past autumn, whilst affording proof of the indebtedness of the country to the vigilance and labours of the health officers of a number of our principal ports, revealed also certain sources of weakness in our port sanitary administration, and it at the same time led to a variety of demands which may be regarded as going beyond the necessities of the case. Hence it was a happy idea on the part of the Lord Mayor to invite the health officers of our ports to a conference where real needs could be emphasised and where discussion might dispose of certain demands that were unreasonable and impracticable. Amongst the latter the question of quarantine was very summarily disposed of. Dr. DAVIES of Bristol moved that the detention of vessels having no sickness on board merely because they came from infected ports was unjustifiable. This resolution was supported by Dr. MASON of Hull,