admirably illustrated, and is printed well and on good paper So valuable a work will be sure to reach a second edition before long; and we venture to suggest to the editor that it might easily be improved by the insertion of a greater number of well verified analyses of raw, waste, and manufactured products.

Notes on Surgical Treatment and Minor Operations. Specially designed for House-Surgeons and Students. By THOMAS F. HOPGOOD, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Sunderland Infirmary, &c. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1882.

WE are informed in the preface that this work is intended "as a guide to every-day work of house-surgeons and students." A few quotations will show that the above description of the book is not warranted by the character of its contents. The grammatical construction is often peculiar. Thus on the first page we read: "..... dislocations, which can be replaced easily, should be effected at once." A fluid recommended for injection into the sac of an hydrocele is one composed of "equal parts of iodine and water." On page 24 "house-surgeons and students" find themselves addressed in these words: "If you have stricture it may either come under the surgeon's or house-surgeon's care." To pass a French catheter "all you have to do is to catch hold of the penis with the left hand, and drag it well forwards, and pass the instrument by thrusts, at the same time giving it a rotatory motion." On page 16 hot fomentations are stated to prevent suppuration, but hot linseed-meal poultices to hasten it. Again, on page 13, we read that after a large abscess has been opened "in most cases stimulants are necessary." "As a rule, stimulants do good when the pulse grows less frequent, the tongue cleaner, and the temperature lower." We learn also that the stomach-pump "may be used in stricture of the œsophagus, or in mania." In taking a skin graft "a small piece of skin is caught hold of with the artery forceps, and then divided, taking care to remove no fat with it." We will complete these quotations by an extract which is Mr. Hopgood's advice to "house-surgeons and students" when asked to give a prognosis in a case of burn. "If the burn be at all severe it is best to give a guarded opinion, by saying the probability is they will either live or die; but the possibility is that they may recover or not, according to the circumstances of the case—namely, if the chest is burnt the prognosis is not so favourable as if the legs; then, again, the age, constitution, and severity must be taken into account."

The absence of any kind of index, and of any alphabetical or other simple arrangement of the matter of this "guide," is one of the striking features of the book.

A Price List of Surgical Instruments, Apparatus, Appliances, &c. Manufactured and sold by JOHN WEISS and SON. London: M. S. Rickerly. 1882.

Catalogue of Surgical, Physical, and Physiological Instruments, Microscopes, Medical Appliances, and Sundries. By BRADY and MARTIN. Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 1882.

IN revising their catalogue of instruments, Messrs. Weiss and Son have added to it the price of every article, which will be a great convenience to their customers. Unlike many similar catalogues, it contains no illustrations; but this want is to be supplied by a separate book of illustrations, which will shortly be issued, and make the catalogue complete.

Messrs. Brady and Martin supply a priced and illustrated catalogue not only of surgical instruments and appliances, but also of microscopes and all requisites for modern histological work, even down to the various staining reagents and mounting media. Physiological instruments, such as the kymograph, tenometer, and onkometer, are also to be found, along with museum jars and various other appliances used by medical men in their various pursuits. These additions have materially increased the value of this catalogue.

CUTANEOUS INJECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are constantly reading of experiments on animals, showing how death is produced by the injection under the skin of fluid containing different kinds of micro-organisms, but might not the gentlemen conducting these valuable experiments greatly enhance their value by trying to discover an antidote to these poisons? If they could only be induced to inject into the veins of the animal about to have the poisonous fluid introduced some of the numerous antiseptics or germicides, they might possibly make the discovery that one of them possessed the remarkable and useful property of converting the blood into a fluid in which the development of the poison could not proceed, and the animal would not die. We have all heard that the injection of a solution of permanganate of potash into a vein immediately after the introduction into the system of the rapidly fatal cobra poison prevents that poison from having its usual fatal consequences, and doubtless it would have the same result if injected immediately before the bite of the cobra. Again, Dr. Fontaine, Bar-sur-Seine, has had the most remarkable success in his treatment of diphtheria by giving his patients sulphide of calcium until the breath and skin exhale the odour of sulphuretted hydrogen. And even if the experiments on animals, such as I suggest, should fail to discover an antidote or germicide powerful enough to counteract the poisonous effects of the micro-organisms, which in a concentrated form are injected under an animal's skin, it might still be possible for those of our surgeons who have a large and sad experience of blood-poisoning, or for those practitioners who have numerous cases of zymotic diseases constantly under their charge, to move in the track of those gentlemen who have been successful in combating the deadly cobra poison and the too often fatal diphtheria.

There are several antiseptics besides permanganate of potash with which the blood might be saturated, either by injection into a vein or by small and frequently repeated doses—for example, eucalyptus, sanitas, the sulphides, the carbolates, the salicylates, &c., and I trust I am not too sanguine in believing it quite possible that carefully conducted experiments might discover in some of these a means of destroying or rendering harmless those other zymotic poisons that play such terrible havoc with human life.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

Snaresbrook, Sept. 13th, 1882. WALTER SCOTT, M.B.

IRIDECTOMY KNIFE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I wish to call the attention of ophthalmic surgeons to a new-shaped iridectomy knife which I have devised. It is easily made out of the old-fashioned knife by having the point ground down, and the cutting edge made semicircular like a cheese-cutter. It is used by a sideways motion until the sclerotic is cut through, and not by transfixion; and the advantages I claim are the absolute immunity from danger of wounding the capsule, and also that the wound, being almost at right angles to the sclerotic, allows of the iris escaping at once. Messrs. Weiss have the pattern, and have made me several. It can also be used for linear extraction, for which I first had it made, and it succeeds very well; but in this country, where there is a difficulty about sharpening knives, it does not last so long as a straight knife.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

GEO. HY. C. HALL, Surgeon, I.M.D.

Eye Hospital, Allahabad, India, Aug. 20th, 1882.

ROTUNDO LYING-IN HOSPITAL. — During the year ending April 1st last, 1319 patients were admitted to the labour wards, which with 29 previously in the hospital made a total of 1348 under treatment. Of these 12 died, and the mortality, deducting 218 admitted to the lying-in department, but discharged, not being then in labour, was 1·08 per cent.