

factors. He does not, however, seem to lay much stress on heredity. To obviate the great tendency to recurrence, he advises the prompt removal of the primary growth and its neighbouring glands, and in doubtful cases he thinks an exploratory operation quite justifiable. After excision, he counsels the close observation of the patient for a period of two years. These recommendations can hardly be said to be novel, but it is well to have them insisted on, for they harmonise best with all that is known of the nature and progress of malignant disease.

*Contribution à l'Etude de la Syringomyélie.* Par Dr. I. BRUHL. Paris: Delahaye et Lecrosnier. 1890.—This monograph fills a distinct lacuna in neuro-pathology; for the condition of which it treats is undoubtedly one that often admits of diagnosis during life, and is by no means one of those pathological anomalies which are hardly to be recognised clinically. Dr. Bruhl has collected all the literature on the subject, and has added thereto some records of cases he has personally observed. One remarkable point which he proves is the frequent dependence of the dilatation of the central canal, or of the formation of new cavities in the substance of the cord, upon a new formation of a gliomatous nature, and it is this type of "medullary gliomatosis" which he has especially had in view. The leading clinical features of this interesting condition are the early appearance of disorder of sensibility, there being analgesia and loss of sensation to thermic stimuli, with retention of tactile sensation. When this remarkable severance of the various kinds of sensory impressions of which the spinal cord acts as the conductor is further associated with muscular atrophy, simulating progressive muscular atrophy, and with other disorders of nutrition, then a diagnosis of syringomyelia is justified. He considers that the anatomical condition is distinct from mere hydromyelia or simple dilatation of the central canal, and that it is a special lesion of the neuroglia, the new formation breaking down to form cavities. But he points out that the same series of phenomena are capable of being produced by a gliomatous formation in the centre of the cord, which has not undergone this excavation.

*Synopsis of Lectures on Diseases of the Skin.* By ROBERT J. GARDEN, M.D. Aberdeen: Bon Accord Press.—These are the headings of lectures delivered by the author at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and his object is to present to his students in a convenient form the essentials of the subject, as regards classification, definition, diagnosis, and treatment, so that the lecturer gains more time for practical demonstration of cases, casts, and diagrams. This synopsis shows that the author has planned for himself a very complete course of lectures, and if in them he clothes these dry bones with an adequate covering, and supplements them with practical demonstrations, it is not his fault if the student does not gain a good insight into diseases of the skin. Students who have not heard the lectures will find the Synopsis useful as affording memoranda.

*Diabetes.* By ANDREW N. SMITH, M.D. Detroit: G. S. Davis. 1889.—A concise and accurate history of diabetes mellitus and insipidus, treated systematically from the clinical, pathological, and therapeutical standpoint. The author has made himself acquainted with the most recent ideas on the subject, and has produced a readable, if not highly original, book.

*Transactions of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association.* New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1889.—The volume comprises full reports of the discussions on the various papers it contains. Amongst the most interesting topics are the subjects of "Septic Edema of the Upper Air Passages," by Dr. Glasgow; "Some of the Manifestations of Syphilis of the Upper Air Passages," by Dr. De Blois; "Some Unusual

Manifestations of Tuberculosis of the Larynx," by Dr. Rice; and "On the Local Treatment of Diphtheria," by Dr. Mulhall.

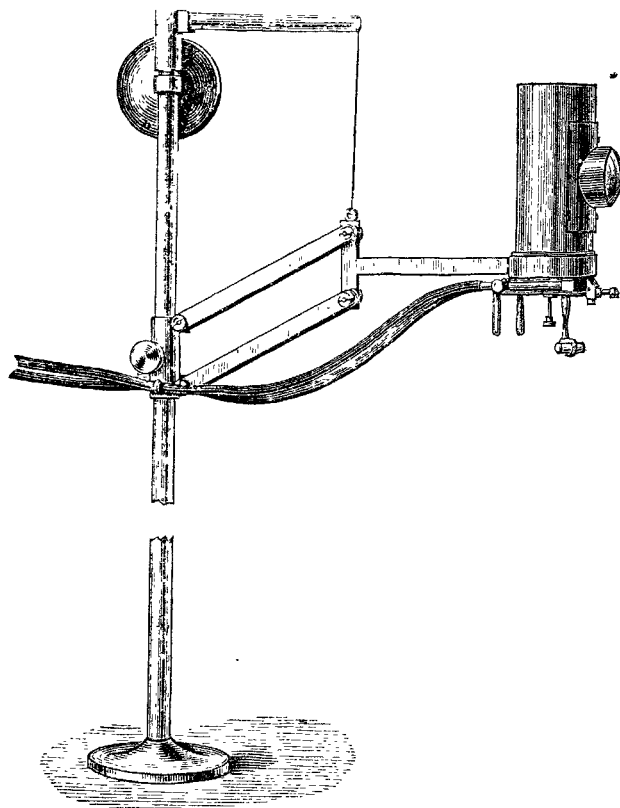
*The Veterinarian.*—The November number of this serial is devoted almost entirely to reports of the addresses given at the opening of the various veterinary colleges in London and in Scotland. They differ very much in character, as one would expect, but each is interesting in its own way, though it is probable that that of Professor Charteris dealing with the "holiday" subject would be most enthusiastically received. From the others the position of veterinary medical science in this country and the efforts being constantly made to improve it may be gathered. Following a number of extracts, a "Contribution to the Study of Parturient Fever of the Cow," by Professor Thomassen, Utrecht, Holland, is the only paper of any length on veterinary medicine; in it nothing very new is given, but a good *résumé* of the literature on the subject. The remaining pages are devoted to the reports of meetings of various veterinary associations. On the last page we find, under the heading of "Miscellanea," "The Doleful Ballad of Germs," which, in its way, is good—e.g.:

"Tuberculous germs in the goblet float—  
With bacilli I know it swarms—  
And germs in the mutton and beef I note,  
In some of their protean forms,"

## New Inventions.

### NEW LAMP FOR LARYNGOSCOPIC EXAMINATIONS.

FOR the satisfactory carrying out of laryngoscopic and rhinoscopic examinations artificial light is almost invariably required, and I think that most specialists will agree that the purest and best light is that furnished by the oxy-hydrogen limelight. I have recently had a limelight apparatus fitted up in my consulting room, which for convenience and simplicity of construction is, I believe, unequalled. It



consists, as will be seen from the accompanying woodcut, of an upright standard, which is fixed in the floor below and to the wall above. Sliding on this and adjustable at any height by a screw is the bracket for the lamp. Lateral movement is obtained by the rotation of the standard on

its pedestal. The upward and downward movement of the lamp is effected by means of a counterpoise contained in the hollow tube constituting the standard. The balance is so true that the lamp can be readily moved with one hand, and remains in any position without having to be fixed. Flexible tubes connected with the cylinder containing the oxygen and with a gaspipe convey oxygen and gas to the lamp. The metal tube for the oxygen is in the centre of the gas jet, and the flame is directed against a cylinder of lime. The chimney of the lamp is provided with a bull's-eye lens to concentrate the light. The inventor, who is an exceedingly able mechanic, has patented and placed the apparatus in the hands of Messrs. Arnold, of West Smithfield, who will give particulars about it. I shall be glad to show my light to any professional brother who may be interested in the matter.

Wimpole-street, Oct. 31st, 1890. F. DE HAVILLAND HALL.

### THE HARVARD PHYSICIAN'S AND SURGEON'S CHAIR.

THE inventor of the "Harvard" has endeavoured to combine the capabilities of a chair for the physician, an operating table for the surgeon, and a couch for the gynæcologist, and has accomplished his object by producing a chair which can be easily put into a variety of positions by very simple mechanism, and adapted to almost any position of the body. Fig. 1 represents it in position as a chair, which may be tilted slightly backwards, rendering it suitable for operations on the mouth, throat, ear, or eye, or as a dentist's chair. It is also shown (Fig. 2) in a reclining position as a gynæcological couch or operating table, and being set upon a strong steel screw, it can be lowered or elevated from 29½ in. to 34½ in. simply by revolving it, and thus it is raised an inch in two revolutions. By the screw it can be rotated to the best point for light during examination or operation, and there easily fixed. As a gynæcological couch it is especially useful, and Fig. 3 represents it as for the dorsal position of the

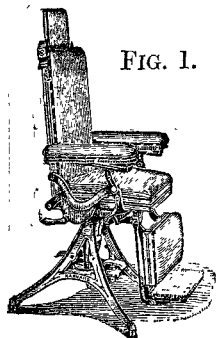


FIG. 1.

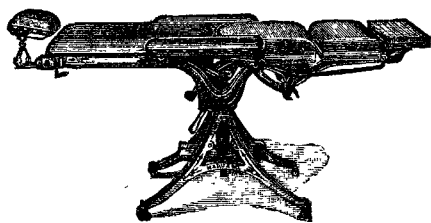


FIG. 2.

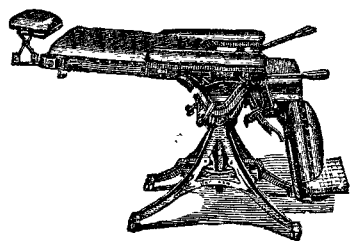


FIG. 3.

patient, with the stirrups extended, which, when not in use, are turned back below the arms. While in this position the upholstered part of the seat can be removed, and below there is a tin tray which receives all discharges in operations. By a simple mechanism the head can be lowered below the level of the body, or the couch when extended can be inclined towards one or other side, and when towards the left and the patient on her left side, she is tilted into the best position for examination according to Sim's method. The arms can be very easily turned aside if found in the way during operations, taken upwards and fixed by the stirrups. In this way the upper part of the couch is increased in breadth.

We have had it in use for some time, and find that it is all the manufacturers claim for it. It is neat in appearance, the frame being of enamelled iron, the body of dark oak, and upholstered in strong leather. It can be easily and quickly manipulated to any position when the patient is upon it, and certainly we have not found any couch on which it is so easy to make a thorough gynæcological examination. As a rule gynæcologists in this country are satisfied with an ordinary couch or elevated sofa for consulting-room use, but the ease with which a patient is examined while in the semi-prone position on the "Harvard" is enough, we think, to commend it to every gynæcologist. To the general practitioner, or even to the pure physician, it must be useful, as the patient can be put in a semi-reclining position for thoracic or abdominal examination without the slightest strain. It is an American production, and is being largely used by our transatlantic confreres. It is manufactured by the Harvard Co. Canton, Ohio, and the agents in London are Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, E.C., on whose premises the chair can be seen.

### Analytical Records.

COCA BYNIN: A COMBINATION OF THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF COCA LEAVES WITH BYNIN OR LIQUID MALT.

(ALLEN AND HANBURY, PLOUGH-COURT, LOMBARD-STREET, E.C.)

The idea of combining extract of malt with the extract of erythroxyton coca is, we think, a good one. It can be employed, under the direction of the practitioner, for the extemporaneous preparation of coca wine by merely adding it to ordinary wine to which patients are accustomed, and securing, at the same time it may be, an additional advantage by the presence of an active malt essence. Our experiments go to show the genuineness of the preparation. It rapidly liquefies starch jelly, and in a very short time completely converts it. When shaken with ether, the ether becomes tinged with green, which of course is due to the chlorophyll of the coca leaf. On evaporation of the ether a residue is obtained which is distinctly paralysing in its effect on the tongue. It yields also the characteristic needle-shaped crystals of cocaine hydrochlorate when treated with hydrochloric acid.

PATENT AERATED MILK (AFTER SEPARATION.)

(JOHN CRAMPTON, PATENTEE AND MANUFACTURER, STANSTEAD-PARK DAIRY, STANSTEAD, ESSEX.)

We confess that this preparation has excited in us no little amount of interest. Most will agree that milk when successfully aerated with carbonic acid gas will probably occupy a prominent place in the list of sick-room accessories. We have had full opportunity of examining these samples, which are the first of the kind that have been submitted to us. It is necessary apparently to abstract first a large portion of the cream by skimming. Then it is scalded by steam and subsequently charged with gas and bottled or put into syphons in the usual way. The samples kept perfectly sweet and uniform in composition in our laboratory for six or seven days, although the temperature was above normal. After that time the taste gradually grew cheesy and the solids separated. When quite fresh the taste was peculiarly smooth and creamy. Our analysis, it will be seen, corresponds with that of skimmed milk. Total solids, 9.71 per cent.; fat, 0.34 per cent.; mineral water, 0.08 per cent. We were disappointed to find that salicylic acid was present in small quantity.

CLOSE FISH.

(DAVID GOW, 7, PORT DUNDAS-ROAD, GLASGOW.)

"Close fish" probably are not so well known here in England as in Scotland. They are fish which have been