manner." It appears to us that the danger in such cases is not due to the occurrence of vomiting. Rupture is much more likely to be caused by the bi-manual examination, unless very cautiously employed.

The anatomical and historical parts of the book strike us as being the most satisfactory; the clinical portion deals with matter that has already received considerable attention at the hands of other authors. There are no less than twenty-two excellent plates at the end of the volume from drawings made by the author. The book must undoubtedly be regarded as a valuable work of reference on ectopic pregnancy.

JOURNALS AND REVIEWS.

St. Thomas's Hospital Gazette.—St. Thomas's men will notice with regret the announcement in the first number of Vol. VII. of the retirement of Mr. F. G. Parsons, who has so ably edited the *Gazette* from its earliest infancy. Among the articles is a succinctly-written little paper entitled "Notes on the Application of x rays" and the first instalment of a paper by Mr. W. G. Sutcliffe, "Recollections of the Second Matabele War."

Guy's Hospital Gazette.—The recent death of Surgeon-Major Manser, who lost his life at the post of duty, is fresh in the minds of all, and the two letters from Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wilkins and Dr. L. F. Childe respectively, announcing the death and appreciating the worth of the late officer will be read with interest. R. O. M. continues his "Notes from a Holiday in Persia." From them we learn that the only hospital in Teheran is under the charge of an American and that in the matter of surgical machinery it is quite up to date—"all the latest from New York."

New Inventions.

AN AUTOMATIC SPRING TONSIL GUILLOTINE.

I WISH to draw the attention of the profession to a form of tonsil guillotine which I have devised to work by "spring action." Owing to the fact that there are numerous forms of guillotine already in use, one naturally hesitates before describing any modification of such an instrument. However, I venture to show the working of one which, with the advice and kind assistance of Mr. C. Vyle, I have had made by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, and it appears to me to be of some advantage. The accompanying illustrations show at a glance the method I have adopted of applying a "spring" to a Mackerzie instrument. One end of

the spring is fitted to the distal part of the lower segment, and is the fixed point, and the other to the knife slide. On setting the instrument in the usual way, by drawing back the proximal end, the spring is thus made tense, and is fixed and kept ready to be instantly released, by a catch within the handle meeting a small hole in the top slide as it is drawn back, and worked by a smaller spring in the handle. When ready to excise the tonsils, the guillotine is released

simply by touching a knob or trigger, as seen in the diagram. The spring is covered in and so arranged that it can easily be removed for cleansing purposes, and the strength is sufficiently great to enable the knife, on being released, to instantaneously cut through the tissue. The advantages are: rapidity of action; can be worked with one hand, leaving the other free for the thumb to press externally upon the tonsil, the left for the left and *vice versa*; the easy and simple mode of working; the instrument cannot get out of order; is simple in its mechanism and seems to answer the purpose for which it is intended—namely, immediate excision when once the guillotine is favourably *in situ*, and being thus steady and not requiring any force from the operator, so preventing any movement or displacement from the tonsil otherwise necessarily induced.

London.

R. BROOKS POPHAM.

AN IMPROVED TONSILLOTOME.

THIS instrument does away with the necessity of

an assistant to push up the tonsils. It works by a spring. Before use the blade is drawn back until retained by the catch, and the small pin inserted into the hole in the shaft. The instrument is introduced into the mouth horizontally until nearly in position, and then turned sideways over the tonsil, while the operator pushes it up with the thumb of the other hand. During the last movement the pin falls out, and on pulling the trigger the tonsil is removed instantaneously, painlessly, and with great precision. A specially devised guard is added to

prevent the tonsil falling down the patient's throat. Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer of 71, Great Portland-street, W., are the makers.

Devonshire street, Portland-place, W.

FREDERICK SPICER,

M.D. Durh.

A NEW TONSIL FORCEPS.

SOME time ago, having to excise a number of enlarged tonsils, I found great inconvenience in working with the instruments commonly used for that purpose. Accordingly, I designed the instrument illustrated below, which has been most satisfactorily made by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London. The mode of using the instrument is as follows. The forceps having been introduced into the mouth and counter-pressure made beneath the angle of the jaw, the enlarged tonsil is thereby placed between the blades of the forceps. The handles then being approximated, the instrument is locked by means of the neck and catch with which it is furnished. The tonsil is then drawn well towards the middle line by means of the instrument. A tonsil bistoury is then passed from below upwards behind the tonsil about to be removed. The bistoury is made to cut from behind forwards, being kept closely applied and parallel to the sides

of the grasping portion of the forceps. For those who would wish to make "assurance doubly sure" the bistoury can be inserted within the fenestræ and made to remove that portion of the tonsil contained within the blades, which, inasmuch as the fenestræ are fairly large, practically means the entire gland. The latter mode of operating will be

facilitated by studying the portion of the tonsil enclosed between the blades by inserting a small tumour-hook in it. This method of removal cannot be effected without some detriment to the edge of the bistoury. The advantages claimed for this instrument are as follows: (1) impossibility of wounding the internal carotid artery, as the blades of the forceps clasp the gland in a plane at right angles to the line of the artery; (2) extreme ease of application, as both blades are in full view of the operator; (3) when applied is retained in position by catch, thus enabling the operator to dispense with assistance; (4) can be applied to either side with equal facility; and (5) the grooves on the blades of the forceps obviate any tendency on the part of the tonsil to slip from the grasp of the instrument.

Littleborough, G. KIRKMAN FINLAY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary meeting of the Council was held on Feb. 11th, the President, Sir WILLIAM MACCORMAC, being in the chair.

The secretary reported the death, on Jan. 31st, 1897, of Sir Thomas Spencer Wells, Bart., past President and past member of the Council of the College.

The Council passed a resolution of condolence.

The report from the committee on the circular to the Fellows was received and adopted. It showed that 1150 circulars were sent out and 686 valid answers were received. Of these answers 485 negatived the proposal to give direct representation upon the Council to Members of the College. Of the minority of 201, who thought that the Members should be admitted to the privilege, 42 thought the representation should be by Members only, 40 by Fellows only, and 119 were indifferent. Only 67 thought that Members should be qualified to vote irrespectively of their standing in the profession, 125 voting for some age restriction and 9 not replying to the question; 129 considered that new seats should be added to the Council, 49 that seats should be taken from the Fellows and given to the Members' representatives, and 23 ignored the point.

A report was presented from the delegates of the two Royal Colleges on the question of a Teaching University for London and the following resolution recommended by them was adopted:—

"That the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in full accord with their previous action, express the earnest desire that Her Majesty's Government will at the earliest opportunity re-introduce a Bill for the reconstitution of the London University by Statutory Commission on the general lines of the report of the Cowper Commission, and do assure the Government that such a course will have their approval and support."

Mr. W. Rivington resigned his position as one of the delegates.

A letter was read from Dr. Michael Beverley stating that at a largely-attended meeting of the profession resident in Norwich and at a very numerously attended meeting of the

Norfolk and Norwich Medico-Chirurgical Society, Sir Frederic Bateman and he were appointed a deputation to present a Memorial to the College asking for advice with regard to professional relations with medical aid associations.

A committee was appointed to receive the deputation and to report on the whole matter to the Council.

A letter was read from Lord Lister thanking the Council and the Fellows for their congratulations.

The Council approved, as proposed by the Royal College of Physicians of London, the inclusion of bacteriology as a subject of study and examination under the regulations of the combined Examining Board, and the addition for this purpose of the words "and in bacteriology" to Section 1, Sub-section 5, par *d* of the regulations.

It was moved by Mr. Macnamara and carried *nem. con.*—

That the Council do hereby withdraw their representatives from the Civil Rights Defence Committee acting on behalf of Mr. R. B. Anderson, F.R.C.S. Eng.

It was moved by Mr. Heath and carried—

That the resolution of the Council of Dec 21st, 1893, relating to the appointment of Representatives of this College on the Conjoint Finance Committee be rescinded and that the treasurers of the College be *ex-officio* Members of such Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LORD LISTER.

WE have received the following letters for publication from the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh:—

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh,
3rd February, 1897.

DEAR LORD LISTER,—I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the congratulations of the Fellows of the College on the occasion of the further honour conferred on you by the Crown in your elevation to the Peerage, passed with acclamation at the meeting of the College to-day.

I am, Dear Lord Lister, yours very sincerely,

JOHN STRUTHERS.

TO LORD LISTER,—We, the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, met to day for the first time since Her Majesty conferred on you the honour of elevation to the Peerage, embrace the opportunity of offering you our congratulations on an honour so well deserved and which is enhanced by the fact that it is the first occasion on which that honour has been conferred on a member of the medical profession.

It is with pleasure that we, some of us your former colleagues, many of us your former students, recall that you became a Fellow of the College in 1855, that your career as a Teacher, and those Researches that were to bear so much fruit, began in Edinburgh; and, after being continued for some time in Glasgow University, were resumed in Edinburgh, where, in the position of Professor of Clinical Surgery, you inculcated the principles of Antiseptic Surgery to large classes of students and illustrated these principles by your practice in the Royal Infirmary.

While the results of your labours are appreciated by all of us, it is only those of us who recollect what Surgery was before you enforced these principles who can fully realise the improvements that have been effected by their application. What were dangerous operations are now done with comparative safety, operations that could not be attempted are now undertaken with success, and wounds of all kinds now heal rapidly and cleanly. Further, we recognise that the benefits of the application of antiseptic principles extend beyond surgery; that the mortality in Maternity Hospitals has thus been very greatly reduced, and that antiseptics are employed with advantage in many departments of the Practice of Medicine, including that of the regulations for Public Health. We need hardly add that these principles are fully applied in our Royal Infirmary and other Hospitals here, and everywhere in Edinburgh.

It is a source of pleasure to us to think that the new era in surgery which you have established will render your name imperishable as one of the benefactors of the human race. All of us, former colleagues and pupils alike, join in further expressing our esteem for you personally, and in wishing you yet many years during which you may enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that your great work is appreciated throughout the world and during which you may still more exert your influence.

In name and by authority of the College,
JOHN STRUTHERS, President.

[REPLY]

12, Fark-crescent, Portland-place,
6th Feb., 1897.

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,—I beg you to express to the Fellows my warmest thanks for their generous words of congratulation transmitted by you. They carry me back to the days when I began to teach Surgery with the sanction of the College, entailing, as it did, that of the University; a most liberal arrangement, then, I believe, unique in the British Island, one which has certainly contributed largely to the greatness of the Edinburgh school, and to which I am personally incalculably indebted.

I need hardly say that this expression of kind feeling on the part of my former colleagues and students has given me the greatest pleasure.

Believe me, very sincerely yours,

JOSEPH LISTER.