most unconvincing necromancer. Bulwer Lytton's *Arbaces* is worth twenty Raaths and Meinhold's incomparable *Sidonia* is superior to both. Mr. Forbes has descriptive power and the account of the battle in Chapter XX. is very good.

JOURNALS.

Annales de Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique. August—September. Paris: G. Steinheil. 1899. Price 8 francs.—This double number contains some of the more important reports and papers read before the Amsterdam Congress of Gynæcology and of Obstetrics. Professor Pinard presented a report upon the Indications for Cæsarean Section compared with the Indications for the Operations of Symphysiotomy, Craniotomy, and the Induction of Premature Labour. His conclusions are as follows: In the treatment of contracted pelvis and the induction of premature labour, all operations such as the application of forceps or version, implying the extraction of the fœtal head by force against the bony resistance of the pelvis, whether the bony resistance situated at the brim, in the cavity, or at the outlet, and embryotomy upon the living child, should be given up. His view is that in such cases the treatment should consist of momentary enlargement of the pelvis by symphysiotomy, pubiotomy, ischio-pubiotomy or coccygotomy, conservative Cæsarean section or partial or total hysterectomy, and embryotomy upon the dead child. Further details are given of the cases of symphysiotomy at the Clinique Baudelocque from 1897 to 1899, bringing the total number up to 100 with 12 maternal deaths. Professor Lebedeff and Dr. P. Bartoszewicz presented a report upon the Variability of the Pelvic Measurements in Different Attitudes of the Body. Professor Porak read a paper upon Omphalotripsy, advocating the application of pressure forceps applied for from 10 to 15 minutes as a certain and sufficient means of arresting hæmorrhage from the cord. Professor Baldy's paper upon the Surgical Treatment of Fibroids of the Uterus and Professor Hartmann's paper upon the Relative Value of Antiseptics and of Perfection of Technique in the Actual Results of Operative Gynæcology are given in full. The rest of the number, consisting of some 370 pages, is of great interest and value, containing as it does the proceedings and full reports of the discussions and papers read at the Congress. The editors are to be congratulated upon presenting so full an account of the proceedings of the Congress to such of their readers as will not have access to the complete Transactions.

THE TYPHOID FEVER EPIDEMIC AT TRING.—A site at Tring has been given by Lord Rothschild for an isolation hospital which the urban district council has resolved to erect, at a cost of £2500, in consequence of the outbreak of typhoid fever in the district.

THE PFAUDLER VACUUM SYSTEM OF FERMENTATION.—The application of this system to the production of lager beer on a very large scale has recently been commenced at the brewery of Messrs. Allsopp at Burton-on-Trent. We hope shortly to return to this subject, inasmuch as the departure is quite new in regard to the English brewing industry and has an important bearing upon the beverage of the people. We have often confessed surprise that English brewers did not pay attention to the brewing of lighter beers like those consumed on the Continent. We are confirmed in our opinion by the important step which Messrs. Allsopp have recently taken that there is a growing demand for a lighter beverage. In a future number we propose to publish an account of the machinery at Burton which was inspected last Wednesday by a very large company of visitors from London. At the same time we think that it will be instructive to our readers if we print the result of a series of analyses, which will be undertaken in THE LANCET laboratory, dealing with the composition of the new English lager beer.

New Inventions.

IMPROVED OVUM FORCEPS.

THE Ovum Forceps depicted in the accompanying illustration has been made for me by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, 48, Wigmore-street, W. I think it meets a felt want. The ordinary ovum forceps is well known, having a pair of blades which meet at a point at the end, the only place at which they are in contact, and the theory of its action seems to be that the egg-shaped ovum will fall into the oval aperture of the blades and, lying there, be easily extracted. In fact, as all practitioners know, it does nothing of the sort. Often enough an ovum is torn in the act of extracting it and then a portion being left and being besides attached to the uterus, cannot be removed by the ordinary ovum forceps which grasps it only by the extreme tips of the blades. Finding this difficulty in many of the cases in which I was asked to assist practitioners I first got the ordinary ovum forceps flattened out, so that the blades should be in contact all the way along and not merely at their tips. The serration at the blades gave a rather better grip and a little more power of extraction was gained. Still, however, too often the blades slipped over a portion of the attached placenta, and other means had to be used to extract it. Curetting is objectionable in many of these cases because it injures the delicate mucosa. So I suggested the instrument shown, a kind of evolution of the ordinary ovum forceps and a considerable improvement on it. The edges of the blades, whose general curve and shape have been retained, as they required no improvement, have been bevelled, so as to avoid injury to the uterine mucosa. After their introduction the blades are opened and moved in the direction of the attached placental tissue which can often be just touched but cannot be extracted by the tip of the index or middle finger. When the blades are opened the placenta or ovum can be grasped between them and then the projected teeth, projecting four on one side against three

on the other, each fitting into the openings on the opposite side when the blades are closed, grip the ovum or placenta and extract it. I have found this instrument serve me well on several occasions. Practitioners are usually struck by its adaptability to the intended purpose, and more than once have I heard it said that it was the "very thing." Messrs. Allen and Hanburys have suggested and carried out the further improvement of an aseptic joint which allows of thorough cleansing of the blades each one separately after use. It is, of course, used with strict aseptic and antiseptic arrangements. By its use I have often been able to obviate the necessity of widely and forcibly dilating the os and cervix, which it is better to avoid when possible in the management of these cases.

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THE DUNKLEY (GAS) MOTOR CAR.

THE motor car represented in the accompanying illustration is intended for two adults, as a phaeton, or for two children and a governess, or for one adult. It is driven by a Dunkley gas motor, which is constructed either so as to be capable of taking in gas from any ordinary gas-pipe, with a gas-bag attached, or to work with gas that is generated as