

## New Inventions

IN AID OF THE

### PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

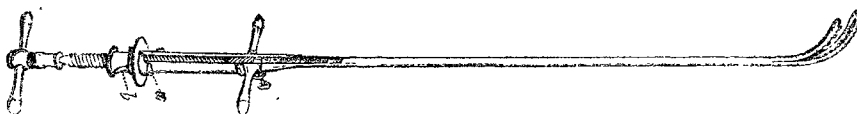
#### THE PORTABLE ORIENTAL VAPOUR BATH.

A PORTABLE, convenient, and cheap vapour bath has long been a great desideratum. That manufactured by Messrs. Benhams and Froud, Chandos-street, fulfils these indications very successfully. It is of small size and very moderate cost, while its appearance is ornamental. It is so well contrived that a gill of methylated spirits of wine gives a good vapour bath; thus the expense of working is reduced to a minimum, and cleanliness and simplicity are secured. This bath can

be readily used in an emergency either for a person in bed or on a chair, and to the whole or any part of the body; while the unpleasant sensation of risk caused by the apparatus being put under the chair, where it can be neither seen nor controlled, is altogether removed by the construction of this bath. There is a perforated tray prepared for the reception of herbs when medicated vapour is required. It may be recommended for the household, the sick-room, and the hospital as a useful and an economical apparatus.

#### AN IMPROVED LITHOTRITE.

The illustration represents an improved arrangement for putting the screw of the ordinary lithotrite in and out of work. This is effected by means of the sliding ferrule (*b*), which, when in the position indicated, is ready for commencing the operation;



a slight movement forwards to *a* renders the screw and slide quite free, and the instrument may then be used to seize the stone, or is at the disposal of the operator. The complexity which exists to obtain the same advantage on the principle of Civiale is entirely removed, and a much quicker adjustment of the screw for crushing is obtained. The instrument is rendered less in weight by the absence of intricate mechanism, is

of greater strength and durability from the simplicity of its action, and withal less expensive.

To Mr. Ashton, of Cavendish-square, is due the credit of the suggestion; and the makers (Messrs. Savigny and Co., of St. James's street) have, in manufacturing the instrument, brought to great perfection the simple arrangement above described.

#### THE SURGEON OF THE "ALABAMA."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Many thanks are due to you, to the *Times*, and to the *Telegraph*, for the manly justice you have done to the heroism and memory of one who so lately graced the profession of medicine and arms in the last act and death of the noble and unfortunate Llewellyn.

Can any commissioned officer, either in the Senate or in active service, reasonably feel a degradation in calling such a man as Dr. Llewellyn a brother-in-arms, who, in the *Alabama*, did no less than a combatant officer is expected and bound in honour to do when duty requires him to lead on his ship, his company, or his brigade into action. The world generally and rightfully applauds the officer who foremost leads his men to action, or is last to leave the field. No less is the master mariner applauded for his bravery and sense of duty when he is known to be the last to leave his sinking ship, after seeing that every man, woman, and child had been taken such care of as circumstances admit. Is Llewellyn's Curtian sacrifice of life, then, not to be placed on a par with the intrepidity of Captain Semmes? Is the saving of life and limb of a soldier or sailor less worthy of rank than the sacrifice of either under the imperative necessity of allegiant duty? Does the wounded sailor, soldier, subaltern, or general officer wound the pride and susceptibilities of the non-combatant soldier-surgeon by considering him as an amputating butcher only? or does he not, in this his dire need, call him his guardian angel, always on his beneficent mission of healing? Are any of the personal or official virtues of a combatant in action more noble, more valorous, or more useful than those displayed by the doctors in open field, in marshy swamp, or in the cock-pit? Whilst the former obtains reputation at the cannon's mouth, does not the doctor run an equal risk in life-contingencies in tending the sick during the epidemics of plagues and pestilences incidental to armies and fleets? Are not the chances of death in a greater ratio against the immunity of medical men under such conditions, than they are against officers in a general engagement?

The truth is, that there are as many upstarts in the Army List as there are snobs in society dangling permissively on the skirts of the nobility, who affect to look down upon the medical service as inferior to the combatant, just as they look upon tradesmen as people tolerated only for their usefulness in ministering to their social necessities. If you should ask, Who are these gentlemen, and what are their pedigrees? Truth will answer that they were first christened "gents" in their commissions; and their pedigree extended no further back than

the army tailors, butchers, and shoemakers of your city and the provinces.

While we complain of injustice being done to the military medical service, let the entire profession unite to render some portion of justice to the memory of the dead by hastening to subscribe their mites towards the formation of a commemorative bust to be placed in the lecture-room at Charing-cross Hospital, and a mural tablet to be placed in the church where he learned the lessons of duty to his Queen, his country, and his God. I have much pleasure in sending to you my subscription, as a tribute of respect to the cause you have so warmly espoused, and which the dead merited: one half for the hospital, and the other for the Wiltshire purpose.

It is with equal pleasure I subscribe also towards the Griffin Testimonial fund, which you will please to hand over to the hon. secretary. We owe to Mr. Griffin a deep debt of gratitude for the service he has rendered to the Poor-law medical staff in fighting their civil battles. Though he has not obtained a remission of all our complaints, that has not been the fault of his advocacy; but, with humiliation we must confess it, he has not been sufficiently supported in his long and arduous single-handed struggle, either by the few rich and independent in our ranks, or by the many less favoured in fortune who are the sufferers of the grievances complained of.—I am, Sir, yours &c.

W. W. MORGAN, M.D.,

July, 1864.

Mayor of Newport, Monmouth.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—ACTION FOR SLANDER: CORNISH V. BAYNHAM.—Mr. H. James was counsel for the plaintiff; and Mr. Serjeant O'Brien and Mr. Hance for the defendant. This was an action for slander and a libel. The plaintiff, a surgeon at New-cross, had attended the defendant, a meal manufacturer, and his family, professionally. Early in the present year the plaintiff sued the defendant in the Lambeth County Court for his charges, £30, and that matter was settled; but afterwards, the defendant sued the plaintiff for a cask of mustard, £1 4s., which claim the plaintiff disputed successfully in the County Court, the defendant being non-suited there. Upon this defeat the defendant began, most unjustifiably, to indulge in a most angry and offensive strain, by words and letters, against the plaintiff, which obliged him to commence this action. After the plaintiff had been examined, the counsel consulted together, and the case terminated by the defendant's counsel, on behalf of his client, making an apology and retraction, and publicly stating that there was no foundation for the imputations, which were made by the defendant in a moment of anger and irritation. Thereupon the plaintiff consented to withdraw a juror.