The midwife who masters Dr. Fairbairn's book will not only make herself efficient in her craft but will become a useful handmaid to medicine.

LIBRARY TABLE.

The Megalithic Culture of Indonesia. By W. J. PERRY, B.A. London: Longmans, Green and Co. Manchester: At the University Press. 1918. Pp. 198. 12s. 6d. net.—*The Passing of the Great Race; or, the Racial Basis of European History.* By MADISON GRANT, Chairman of the New York Zoological Society. London: G. Bell and Sons. 1917. Pp. 245. 8s. 6d. net.—The study of ethnology and of comparative psychology has received an impetus from the "general post" occasioned by the state of almost universal warfare, which is not likely to diminish with the return of peace. The administration of law and order among peoples whose habits of thought and mode of life differ fundamentally from our own requires a sympathetic insight into motives only to be attained by careful study of the past and the present. In Mr. Perry's book, one of the ethnological series of publications issued by the University of Manchester, an inquiry is made into the effects produced by the stone-using immigrants upon the less-advanced inhabitants of Indonesia—a term here used to include not only the East Indian Archipelago, but also Assam, Burmah, the Malay Peninsula, the Philippine Islands, and Formosa. These immigrants are credited with the introduction of terraced irrigation, of metal-working, and of rice-growing, as well as the foundation of lines of chiefs and of a warrior class. The author's investigations are part of a wider inquiry to be extended to other regions of the earth embracing the whole development of civilisation.—Mr. Grant's book deals with the racial history of Europe and examines the physical and psychological characteristics of its races rather than the domains of nationality and language. Racial traits dating back to the time of tribal man anterior to civilisation are discussed in relation to their influence on the present-day inhabitants. His statements are often piquant and likely to provoke discussion. A typical sentence runs: "We Americans must realise that the altruistic ideals which have controlled our social development during the past century and the maudlin sentimentalism that has made America 'an asylum for the oppressed' are sweeping the nation towards a racial abyss."

The Passing On of Life: a Talk about Ourselves. By Viscountess FALMOUTH. London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 1918. 2d.—This is a tract on the reproduction of the human species, and is intended to prepare the minds of juvenile readers for the absorption of requisite knowledge on this subject. It is founded on the axiom that "Right Thinking Leads to Right Doing." The contemplation of flowers and butterflies and birds leads up the staircase of life to man, and the passing on of human life, when controlled by moral standards, is regarded as the highest function of the body. The first edition of this useful pamphlet was reviewed in our columns on Jan. 6th, 1917.

The Lau Islands (Fiji) and their Fairy Tales and Folklore. By T. R. ST. JOHNSTON, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S. London: The Times Book Club. Pp. 145. 5s. net.—Mr. T. R. St. Johnston, whose entire familiarity with the island groups of the Pacific is shown in every line of his writings, prefaces his book with a note from "Somewhere in France," for he is serving at the moment as a temporary Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps. The Lau Islands lie about midway between Fiji and Tonga, some 200 miles from either group, and the author discusses their importance from three separate points of view: utilitarian, as a valuable asset to the copra industry of Fiji; political, because of their geographical and historical relations with Fiji; and scientific, in offering abundant material for a study in comparative ethnology. It is to illustrate the third point that his recapitulation of the fairy tales of the Lau Islands and their folklore is mainly directed, but reference is made to Mr. Basil Thomson's well-known book, "The Fijians," which contains a concrete study of the customs of the natives. Mr. St. Johnston has limited himself, therefore, to legendary folklore and to the doings of the people of the Lau Islands, "whom I know best." How well he knows them can be judged by such chapters as the second one on South Sea Magic, the fourth, entitled "The Duel 'tween God and Ghost," his summary of the legends of the Exploring Islands, and his account of the "Shark God" and the Father of Serpents.

New Inventions.

A NEW EYE SPUD.

THOSE practitioners who receive many patients suffering by reason of the ingress of foreign bodies to the surface of the eye must have been struck with the inadequacy of the instruments in use for the removal of these foreign bodies, particularly of those which adhere to the surface of the cornea. There is but one instrument, the spud, a sort of maid-of-all-work, useful but lacking refinement and distinction. The spud of usual pattern is merely a narrow strip of metal thinned to a blunt edge, and since it is essentially a digging tool it is not good for the removal of the foreign body which is just stuck on to the surface of the cornea. The most dextrous use of the ordinary spud can scarcely avoid a corneal abrasion. For the removal of the ordinary superficial foreign body I have designed a spud (see Figure) calculated to "lift" the foreign body from the eye. On the usual metal handle is mounted a steel stem, this terminates in a small angled piece of steel. This end-piece is shaped like a plano-convex lens, it measures a couple of millimetres in diameter, is set at an angle of 45° to the line of the stem, and the surfaces are placed so that the plane looks towards the handle and the convexity away from it. The edge of the steel end-piece is ground as finely as the shape allows; it is so sharp that when pushed forwards on the hard surface of the finger-nail it will remove a fine shaving of horn. For the removal of a foreign body from the surface of the cornea the eye is anaesthetised in the usual way, the lids are held apart, and the globe is fixed with the finger-tips of one hand. Then the new spud is directed to the eye vertically to the corneal surface with the edge of the end-piece as close to the foreign body as possible, gentle pressure of the spud on the cornea will cause the convexity of the end-piece to depress the corneal epithelium below it, so that a gutter is formed beside the foreign body and the edge of the instrument lowered in relation to the foreign body. A forward movement of the instrument from this position will lift off the foreign body cleanly and without abrading the epithelium. This new spud is not a maid-of-all-work. It is not intended to be used for digging out foreign bodies. To use it for such a purpose is to ensure disappointment. It is a spud of the "first instance." It will lift off the new placed invader more neatly and expeditiously than any other form of spud.

The new instrument is made by Messrs. John Weiss and Son, 287, Oxford-street, London, W. 1.

Harley-street, W.

N. BISHOP HARMAN, F.R.C.S.

AN "ARTHROMETER."

THE illustration depicts a new device for measuring the angles of movements of joints, which has been designed by Mr. Wilbraham Falconer, Superintendent of Mechanical Treatment in the Red Cross Clinic for the physical treatment of disabled officers. This "arthrometer" is simple in construction and easily adjusted to the limbs, and the

measurements are quickly taken. It is intended to be used with all joints and therein differs from the various forms of protractors and goniometers at present in use. If properly adjusted to the limb, the readings cannot be otherwise than accurate. It is manufactured by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 48, Wigmore-street, London, W. 1.

Devonshire-place, W.

R. FORTESCUE FOX, M.D. Lond.