New Inventions.

A NEW PORTABLE OPERATING TABLE.

THE accompanying illustrations show a new portable form of operation and clinical examination table which I have used for some time and consider to be a great improvement

angle, in order to reduce the pressure on the popliteal spaces to a minimum. The head part of the table can be very easily raised or lowered. It will be

Fig. 1.—Table open and arranged for "raised pelvic" position.

Fig. 2.—Table closed.

on the models hitherto existing. It is light, weighing only about 40 pounds complete; very portable, measuring when folded up $30 \times 20 \times 5$ inches, so that it can quite easily be placed inside or on the top of a motor car or carriage; and very strong, being manufactured from oak (varnished with hard varnish) and steel (nickel plated). All joints and working parts are made of metal. It is adjustable to almost any position, and the portion, of the table which supports the patient's legs is made to adjust to any

found to be a very useful table for surgical or gynaecological operations and clinical examinations, especially when the administration of an anæsthetic is necessary, or when it is wished to use a cystoscope, urethroscope, sigmoidoscope, œsophagoscope, or bronchoscope.

Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 48, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square, London, W., are the makers.

H. J. WARING.

Wimpole-street, W.

Looking Back.

FROM

THE LANCET, SATURDAY, June 2nd, 1832.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Friday, May 11, 1832.

SPARKS FROM MAGNETS.

Dr. Richie, professor of natural philosophy to the institution, this evening stated that he had followed in the track of Mr. Faraday in his late brilliant discoveries, and was happy to say he had uniformly arrived at the same conclusions. He had also succeeded in making the spark, which had been obtained by Mr. Faraday in breaking the magneto-electric circle, visible to a large assembly. This was done by placing an explosive mixture of oxygen and hydrogen in the course of the spark, which immediately produced a loud report and a flash of light. He employed a horse-shoe magnet, between the ends of which were placed a couple of tubes; a wire was introduced into each, and their connexion maintained by a

conducting medium. The wires were connected to the magnet by the folds of copper ribbon. The gas was introduced by a bladder and stopcock. The contact suddenly broke, and the spark was made evident by an explosion. Dr. Richie declared his belief that no spark could be elicited from any but a *temporary* magnet.

At this time Mr. Faraday came forward, and stated he had succeeded in obtaining a spark from a natural magnet. Mr. Faraday had borrowed Brown's magnet from the Academy at Woolwich. A small bar of iron, about six inches long, was used in contact with the extremities of the magnet. Two connecting wires were raised from each end of this small bar, and being bent at right angles, overlapped each other. The undermost terminated in a disc about the size of half-a-crown. By a rapid percussion of the bar against the magnet, the disc and wire broke in contact by their elasticity, and a beautiful bluish spark was rendered evident amidst the merited applause of the spectators. During these transactions, as pretty a scene of philosophical coquetry was enacted between the two experimentalists as was ever exhibited on any stage. But the good-natured and discriminating audience would pardon that and much more, in men of such transcendent merit as Richie and Faraday.

In the library there was nothing worthy of remark, except specimens of a petrified *jungle* of gum, and other trees from the New Hebrides.