knife and cured. At the Hospital St. Louis (Paris), in three cases of cancer of the breast, injections of papaine resulted in the softening and digestion of the hard masses of disease. The fluid products, drawn off by an aspirator, from one of these cancers which was as large as a fist, were examined at the laboratory of the Faculté de Médecine, and appeared to be veritable peptone.—*Revue Médicale*. S. W.

THE USEFULNESS OF HOT WATER IN SURGERY.

IN connexion with the details of an operation for the removal of a large myxo-sarcomatous tumour of the superior maxilla, in which the flaps and cavity left by the operation were freely sponged with hot water, Dr. Neilson calls attention to the rapidly-accumulating facts relative to the usefulness of this agent in surgery. By *hot* water is not meant a temperature of 70°–90°, but so hot the hand can scarcely be borne in it. The application thus made is simply magical (Dr. Neilson says) in stopping oozing; and anyone who has seen the beautiful cleanliness of a large flap, and has noted the delicate pink lymph covering the same, subsequent to a *hot* cleansing, would never desire to return to cold water.—*Amer. Jour. Med. Sci.*, April.

NEW PREPARATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC INVENTIONS.

A Stand with Pelvis for Demonstrating the Mechanism of Labour.

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IN demonstrating to a class the various stages and the relative positions of the foetal skull in passing through the pelvis, I contend that it is best for the student to learn with the articulated pelvis, and that he should be always made to follow the movements in the pelvis, first watching his teacher and then working out the process—the deviations from the natural, difficulties in transit, and the object of interferences—for himself. The double act of imagination, as regards the usual obstetric position, in this country and the axis of the child is of course the beginner's "pons." "It involves," as Leishman truly observes, "a somewhat complex mental process." We have to allow for the posture of the woman, lying as she does horizontally, or with the long axis of her body at right angles to that of the accoucheur. Remembering my own early difficulties, I had constructed for my class for demonstration and for individual use in study the stand figured below. It is light and portable, metallic, hollow, with a sliding rod which moves up and down, and the height of which can be regulated by the screw (a). Fig. 1 (from a photograph) shows

the pelvis, lying on the left side, in the usual obstetrical position. By a turn of the screw (a) the pelvis can be made to revolve in the stand, and view of the inlet or outlet presented to the class. By turning the screw (b) the pelvis can be turned in the dorsal position, and the inlet or

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.