

though some objections and several modifications were suggested. One said that a vacuum of 25 pounds might rupture the lens. Now, the writer is not sure of the correctness of his supposition, but he does not believe the 25 on the gauge can mean 25 pounds, for the simple reason that the entire exhaustion of the atmosphere at sea level results in only 15 pounds' pressure.

Possibly the figures on the gauge used by Dr. Hulén referred to subdivisions of a column of mercury whose height just balances the weight of the atmosphere about 30 inches. If inches were indicated, the pressure would be 15 pounds, divided by 25-30 to the square inch, or 5-6 of 15, or $12\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. As the area of the suction surface would be probably about 1-6 of an inch, the vacuum pressure would be 1-6 of $12\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, or 2 1-12 pounds—very different from 25 pounds, but enough, in all conscience. Another possibility is that the figures are for centimeters of mercury column, still farther reducing the pressure; all of which may be entirely wrong, but is worth investigating. The manufacturers of the gauge can quickly solve the riddle. The point would really seem to be of some practical importance.

Salvarsan Again

The *New York Medical Journal* of July 15 publishes "a warning" by W. C. Slusher, M.D., and "a criticism" by C. F. Marshall, M.D., F.R.C.S., both concerning the use of salvarsan.

The latter concludes from his reading and observation that "606" is no more prompt and certain in its remedial effects in syphilis than are mercury and iodide of potassium properly and boldly given: that it is fraught with dangers unknown to those older remedies; that relapses after its apparent cures are more frequent and severe than after mercurial treatment, and that numerous deaths have resulted from its intravenous administration.

This is a severe arraignment, but the points

are so well presented and sustained that they impress the reader with the wisdom of an attitude of waiting without bias for further demonstration. Dr. Slusher, on the other hand, suggests that the disastrous effects sometimes following injections of salvarsan are not due to the drug itself, but to its improper preparation, being so prepared that it carries with it whole colonies of staphylococci, and he believes that the reported cases of necrosis and infection come from this source. He states that physicians often prepare their solutions without regard to asepsis, thinking the drug itself to be a germicide, when the truth is that colonies of staphylococci, mixed with solutions of salvarsan and "slanted" on agar, grow luxuriantly. Evidently there is yet much to be learned about salvarsan.

My Kingdom For a Typewriter!

How true it is that "blessings brighten as they take their flight."

The exhaustion of an ink ribbon and the consequent return to pen and ink most forcibly impresses the writer with the value of the suspended convenience.

Again, the inky fingers cause invidious compliments from *mater familias*.

And the dip, scratch, dip of the pen is monotonous and slow.

A typewriter is so handy to have in the office or at home, especially in one of the modern, light, portable forms.

Twenty years ago who would have imagined a complete, high-grade, type-bar writing machine, with all the small and capital letters, all the Arabic numerals, punctuation marks and signs, with the symbols of pharmacy for prescription writing, with a ready change from black to red ink and back again by merely sliding a catch, and all this in a black leather case no larger than a kodak, and weighing just eight pounds! Yet there it sits, on my desk just now, though often carried home for night work, never having to be removed from the case. One just opens it