

thermometer is fixed into an aluminium case, and is propelled and retracted in a manner somewhat similar to the American pencils—viz., by rotating the small end to the

right or left respectively; in addition to being portable when sheathed, and long when protruded, the case and thermometer are inseparable; the shape of the case (fluted)



SCALE $\frac{2}{3}$ SIZE



prevents it from rolling off the table; and as, when retracted, the thermometer is wholly within the case, it is protected from being broken when the index is being replaced. The instrument is neat in appearance and convenient for the waistcoat pocket or the ordinary dressing-case.

In support of the preference we give to our thermometer we invite attention to the following letter (No. 2), received from Dr. Balthazar Foster, one of the physicians to the General Hospital, Birmingham:—

“GENTLEMEN,—I have examined the pencil-case thermometer invented by you, and I consider the mechanism very ingenious. I have tested the instrument, and I am sure that the union of the thermometer with the case will be found a great advantage to the physician in investigating the temperature of the cavities, and will prevent many of the accidents which occur with the short clinical thermometers in separate cases.—Yours truly, B. W. FOSTER.”

Thanking you for your courtesy, we are, Sir, faithfully yours,
SALT AND SON.
Bull-street, Birmingham, July 29th, 1873.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our attention has been called to an advertisement in your paper which relates to a clinical thermometer which

the makers therein describe as “the only instrument of that character fastened to its case, and as possessing special advantages in being easily propelled and retracted.”

We beg leave to state in your columns that we are the patentees of an improved clinical thermometer, number of patent 2371, which possesses the desirable advantages of a small protecting case, of being readily propelled and withdrawn by the novel contrivance of a screw, which externally presents small flattened surfaces which effectively prevent the instrument rolling when placed on the table, affords length when protruded so as to admit of use with little inconvenience to the patient if in bed, is fastened to the case but can be easily removed therefrom if desired, is readily withdrawn by the reverse action of the screw, and is safely protected by the case for carrying in pocket or case.

We are Sir, your obedient servants,
MAYER AND MELTZER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your impression of to-day we notice a letter from Dr. Hilliard, describing a new form of thermometer which he claims to have originated, and which has been registered. We are quite sure that Dr. Hilliard was not aware that this form of thermometer had been already manufactured by us, or he would certainly not have taken



the trouble and incurred the expense of obtaining a document which for all commercial purposes is merely waste paper. We beg to enclose a cut of our instrument, which we rely on your well-known impartiality to publish with this letter.

Your obedient servants,
MATTHEWS BROTHERS.
Portugal-street, London, W.C., July 26, 1873.

POISONOUS FRUIT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read in your correspondence column of Saturday last a letter headed “Poisonous Fruit” signed John Harker, M.D., &c.; I take the liberty of inserting the following, which, perhaps may interest that gentleman.

The fruit in question, I presume, is the produce of the *Arachis hypogæa* or ground nut, Nat. Ord. Leguminosæ, and is extensively cultivated on the Western Coast of Africa, where it constitutes a large proportion of the food of the negro inhabitants; the native name is Munduli.

I have eaten handfuls of these nuts on different occasions, but never experienced any evil result.

Nevertheless, should the nut be diseased, in all probability its physiological action might be materially altered.

Believe me, Sir, your obedient servant,
H. W. THOMAS.
West Bromwich, July 21st, 1873.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE Irish medical schools, which so largely recruit the ranks of the Army Medical Service, appear to be inclined to exhibit their disapprobation of the late Warrant by holding aloof from the examination announced for the 11th of August. Already many of the best men have expressed

their determination that they will not present themselves for examination until the Warrant be reconsidered and remodeled so as to meet the approval of the profession and the service, and it is said that some of the schools have withdrawn their candidates altogether. There is a strong feeling abroad that the professors and teachers, the representatives of the various schools, should hold a meeting at which the real state of the case might be discussed and explained. Some candidates, of course, will present themselves for obvious reasons. Their position, however, will not be an enviable one, and the introduction of a number of mediocre men will be but a sorry method of keeping up the standard of such an important service.

Our precautions against cholera are going on as usual. Certain of the authorities recommend that on its advent the cases should be spread about the city amongst the various hospitals; others recommend the erection of a special hospital. The inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the proposed sites, however, object. A site was obtained on some slob land on the way to Pigeon House Fort, near where the Dublin militia were encamped last year, when they all but had cholera, and were obliged to be removed on account of the nature of the material of which the slob was composed. The commander of the forces, Lord Sandhurst, has communicated to the Joint Committee of the North and South Dublin Unions, the Public Health Committee, and the Under Secretary, to the effect that, to erect a temporary lazaretto on such ground is calculated to produce the very evil desired to be warded off, that he is inclined to think that the argument is being pursued in the dark, that the matter in question is of very great importance if practical execution is in any manner to be given to it, and that it is one demanding Government deliberation and direction. This out-spoken opinion from so high an authority may cause the serious direction of the attention of the Local Government Board to this matter. It may in time occur to someone that a hospital ship moored in the bay might obviate some of the difficulties that at present exist.

A Bill has been issued this week to amend the Sanitary Act of 1866, as it relates to Ireland, which enacts that any