

addition to the illustrations, the work is most valuable for excellent letterpress treating very fully and minutely of the position of structures at all periods of early life, and it is evident that many of the views generally held in regard thereto will have to undergo considerable alteration. For example, Dr. Symington shows that the external auditory meatus is relatively as long in the child as in the adult, when examined in the fresh state in subjects with the entire head frozen; that the spinal cord in the newly born child ceases at much the same point as in the adult; that the child's neck is not relatively short, but that it is higher in relation to the vertebral column than in the adult. The common assumption that the position of the stomach in the child is vertical is also shown to be erroneous, and is proved by figures taken from an infant four days old, and from the girl six years of age. The portion of the book devoted to the position of the pelvic viscera in male children is of great importance to surgeons, and will be carefully studied in view of operations on the urinary organs in early life. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the author for the obvious care and industry with which he has pursued his investigation, and the accuracy and fidelity with which he has reproduced its results. Its dedication to Professor Braune is a most graceful compliment to an anatomist who has done more to advance the knowledge of topographical anatomy than any other worker in this special branch. In conclusion, we must add a word of praise for the artist, Mr. J. T. Murray, and for Messrs. McLagan and Cumming, who have printed the plates.

New Inventions.

NEW URETHRAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE first instrument, as represented in Figs. 1 and 2, is what I term the Compound Catheter. Outwardly, as Fig. 1 shows, this instrument is practically the same as the French gum-elastic bougie, but upon referring to Fig. 2 it will be seen that where the stricture is too tight, and will not,

FIG. 1.

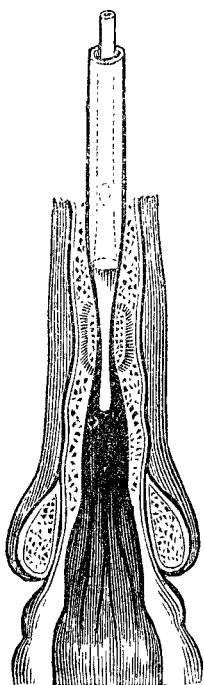
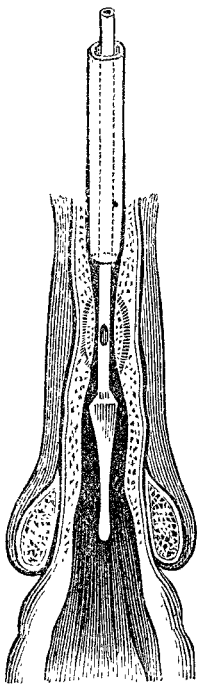


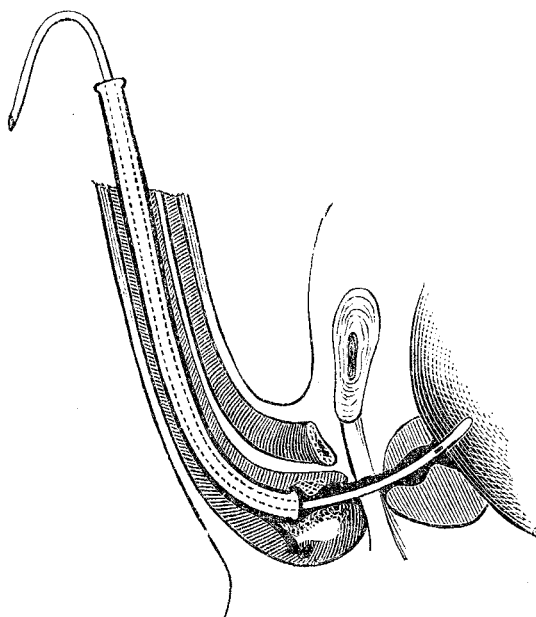
FIG. 2.



or should not, allow the whole instrument to pass, the body or dilated portion can be withdrawn, and the inner or smaller catheter passed on without fear of causing pain to the patient or injury to the mucous membrane. The next instrument, Fig. 3, I call the Catheter Guide or Con-

ductor, and it acts in a double capacity—firstly, for protecting the mucous membrane of the urethra from unnecessary thrusts and stabs, and secondly as a stricture threader. The conductor resembles an ordinary silver bougie—flat, however, at both extremities, with slightly protruding edges; and it contains a central tube capable of admitting a No. 1 and No. 2 catheter, and this is surrounded by a number of smaller tubes for the passage of catgut or fine bougies. Let a stricture be situated where it may, a full-sized catheter can always be passed down to it; the conductor then takes the place of the catheter; this is passed as far as it will go, and its face is pressed gently against the anterior opening of the stricture, in order to dilate it; a long fine catheter, purposely made for the conductor, is then passed down the central tube, and rarely fails to pass through the stricture

FIG. 3.



on reaching it; should it fail to do so, the smaller tubes with catgut can then be worked. Even after failure with all the tubes, we may have the satisfaction of knowing the urethra has been protected from rude treatment, the mucous membrane being saved many a bruise, many a laceration. Failure, however, will not often attend the conductor, if used in a rational manner. A glance at Fig. 3 will possibly serve to illustrate its use. These instruments have been made for me by Messrs. Walters and Co., of 29, Moorgate-street, City. I venture to think that those who may be disposed to try my instruments will not be disappointed with the result. The conductor, especially in intractable cases, will be attended with marked benefit both to patient and operator.

E. DISTIN-MADDICK, F.R.C.S. ED.

"A CASE OF URETHRAL CALCULUS OF UNUSUAL SIZE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have just received the report of the examination of this stone kindly made for me by Mr. Richard Reynolds, of Leeds. As many inquiries have been made as to the composition of the calculus, I hasten to place Mr. Reynolds' report in your hands for publication.—Yours faithfully,

Queen-street, Leeds, Oct. 17th, 1887.

W. H. BROWN.

[COPY.]

Report of the Result of a Chemical Examination of a Fragment of Calculus.

"The specimen was of dirty white colour, compact, and of flinty hardness, with a conchoidal fracture. It was composed of ammonio-phosphate of magnesia, and basic phosphate of lime, and these constituents were separated, and their respective presence was determined. From the physical character it may safely be asserted that the phosphate of lime predominated, and the result of the chemical test was consistent with this view. The urine from which the calculus was deposited would doubtless have an ammoniacal character."

"RICHARD REYNOLDS."