

the explorers and pioneers of the Renaissance, producing and moulding and sending on their mission such men as Toscanelli and Vespucci and sustaining them through stern experiences abroad and yet sterner ordeals at home till their lives became the tissue of romantic adventure and prosaic controversy so instructively and attractively set forth in the "biografie" before us. The literary exposition, unusually artistic and effective even for writers of approved skill like Signor Gori and Signor Conti, is assisted with portraits, Toscanelli's being as impressive in its way as that of Savonarola, while Vespucci's might have been with profit reinforced by the beautiful one just brought to light in the Church of the Borgoguisanti and known to have been the work of Ghirlandaio. This represents him as the "bel giovane" of a familiar Florentine group and would have prepared us for the masculine voyager, hardened by adventure and sobered by trial, whose likeness confronts Signor Conti's title-page.

Gardiner's Household Medicine and Sickroom Guide. Edited by W. H. C. STAVELEY, F.R.C.S. Eng. Thirteenth edition. Pp. 511. 51 Illustrations. Demy 8vo. London: Smith, Elder and Co. Price 8s. 6d. 1898.—The first edition of this work, written by the late Dr. John Gardiner, appeared in 1861 and the fact that it has now reached its thirteenth edition shows that it meets a definite want. Its avowed object is to supply useful medical knowledge to those who, like colonists and missionaries, are removed from skilled medical help, and it is not intended to encroach in any way on the province of the medical man. It may be added that the greater part of the volume might serve as a text-book for nurses during their period of probation as it contains a large amount of useful and practical knowledge and at the same time provides a sufficiency of anatomy and physiology. While fully recognising the danger that may result from prescribing by unskilled persons Mr. Staveley has supplied a number of formulæ for use in emergencies. The book fully succeeds in its object and is essentially practical in its execution.

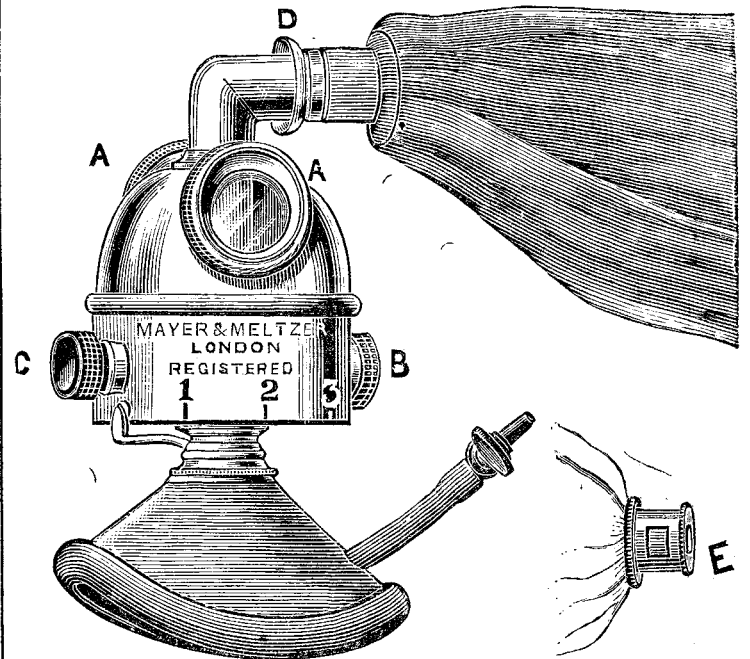
The Pocket Formulary for the Treatment of Diseases in Children. By LUDWIG FREYBERGER, M.D. Vienna, M.R.C.P. Pp. 208. London: The Rebman Publishing Company. 1898. Price 6s. 6d.—Compiled in order to provide in a convenient form necessary information about the therapeutic treatment of children this volume consists of two parts. The first, which occupies 180 pages, is an alphabetical list of drugs. In it useful details as to therapeutic uses, dose, and incompatibilities are given, and convenient prescriptions, which have been carefully planned so as to cover the taste of the drugs, are supplied. The author has evidently taken great trouble with this portion of the work. The second part is called the Therapeutical Index and contains the names of some of the commoner diseases of childhood and of the appropriate remedies. This section is disappointing, for it is incomplete. The arrangement is unsatisfactory and the nomenclature hybrid. English and Latin terms are used haphazard; for example, Mumps and Morbilli occur as headings without any cross reference under parotitis or measles and the only reference to exophthalmic goitre is under Struma exophthalmica. It is a pity that this portion is so inferior to the rest of the book.

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—The annual meeting of this institution was held on March 22nd, under the presidency of Sir C. Cave. The report stated that 3183 in-patients had been admitted during 1897, against 3210 in 1896, and that 37,056 out-patients had been treated, against 34,107 in the preceding year. The financial statement showed that the total ordinary income for 1897 was £9648, against £9587 in 1896. The total ordinary expenditure was £13,195, against £12,770 in the previous year. The President said that there was a deficit of nearly £14,000 due to the treasurer.

New Inventions.

IMPROVED ETHER INHALER.

MESSRS. MAYER AND MELTZER have constructed for me very satisfactorily a Clover's smaller ether inhaler with some modifications which I think will be found very useful and which are shown in the accompanying illustration. 1. In the dome of the ether chamber are two circular apertures on either side into which are screwed two watch-glasses or "windows" (A A) allowing a view of the interior, so that the quantity of ether in the chamber can be easily seen at any time during an administration. These "windows" can be unscrewed and the whole of the interior cleansed with ease after each administration. To facilitate thorough cleansing and to afford a good light in the ether chamber the interior surface is plated and polished in the same manner as the exterior. The glass "windows" fit accurately so as to prevent any leakage of ether in whatever position the inhaler be placed. Should the glass become foggy from condensation of breath on its inner surface, by turning the inhaler so that the ether passes over the glass for a moment, it will be immediately rendered clear.



A A, Windows looking into ether chamber. B, Stopper of aperture for filling hot-water jacket. C, Stopper of aperture for filling ether chamber. E, Air-opening into ether chamber.

Anyone who has examined the interior of the ether chamber of the ordinary Clover's inhaler, with a reflecting mirror, will have noticed that it is generally dirty, and often has a deposit of verdigris in it, nor can it be reached for cleansing purposes. This is obviated by the inhaler described. 2. The water jacket instead of being closed entirely has an aperture with a detachable screw-stopper (B), so that it may be filled with warm water before the inhalation in cold weather; and the jacket may be quickly emptied and refilled if required during a long operation. 3. In the distal end of the bag is an aperture E covered by a metal cap, the rotation of which closes or opens a slot for admission of air into the bag.

It will be found that by keeping the slot only slightly, but continuously, open (after anæsthesia has been induced) cyanosis is prevented and quiet anæsthesia continues. In weakly people air may be admitted continuously from the first. By taking off the cap the bag can be cleansed out with a mop after administration. I have used this inhaler for some months and find it very satisfactory in its working.

Bath,

T. WILSON SMITH, M.D. Lond.

AN EYE PROTECTOR.

AN ingenious and useful protector for the eyes of cyclists and others exposed to wind and dust has been devised by Dr. E. Mirovitch and is described by him in a communication made to the French Hygienic Society in February last.