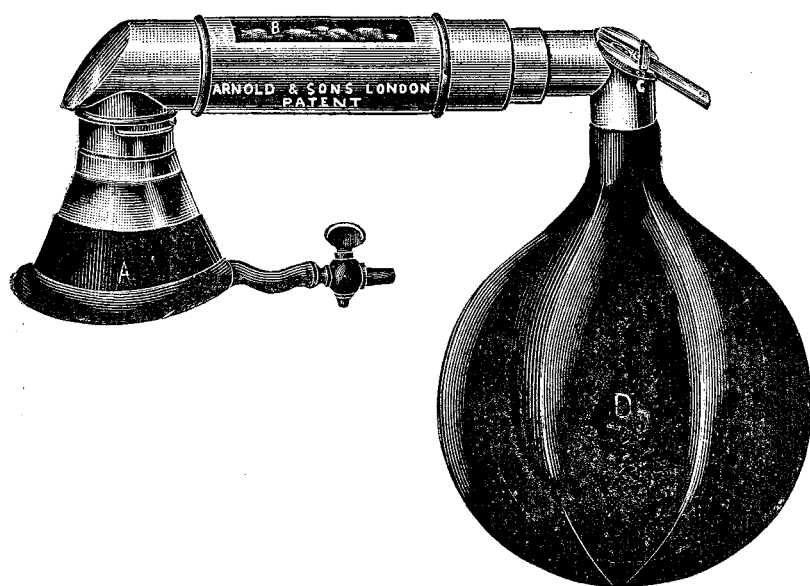


convenience of smokers and others several spittoons are placed in the floor of each carriage where they are used, and dripping umbrellas may also be held with their tips in the perforated bowl. The dimensions of the spittoons are five and three-eighths inches in diameter and four and a quarter inches in depth; they are made of malleable cast iron and weigh one and a half pounds. They have been in use for some months on the Tynemouth branch of the North-Eastern Railway. Railway passengers who spit freely are not usually refined in their manners but when they get into the habit of using the spittoons the result will be a great improvement in the cleanliness of the carriage floors and less danger from the dissemination of tuberculous sputum which after drying has become converted into dust. Further information relative to the spittoon may be obtained from Mr. George Graham, Westminster Chambers, 43, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

A NASAL INHALER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHER.

WITH the inhaler represented in the illustration prolonged anæsthesia may be obtained by means of ether administered through the nasal passages during operations in or about the mouth and particularly in extensive dental extractions. It consists of a nose-piece, A, which rotates through half a circle and is fitted with an indiarubber pneumatic cushion connected with a tubular chamber B in which lies a loosely fitting sponge, the other end of the chamber being fitted with the angle-joint C and the indiarubber bag D of a Clover's inhaler. In the chamber B there is a large aperture which serves the purpose of charging the sponge with ether and which can be closed by a sliding sleeve. There is a small hole closed by a sliding cover C at the angle-joint of the bag;



through this a charge of ethyl chloride can be squirted into the bag for the purpose of inducing anæsthesia before the ether is added if so desired. For a short operation such as the extraction of all the teeth the uncharged inhaler is placed over the nose, the bag hanging over the patient's head, the patient being instructed to keep the mouth closed and to breathe only through the nose. About two cubic centimetres of ethyl chloride are then squirted into the bag through the small aperture C which is immediately closed. As the patient becomes anæsthetised the large aperture B is opened, about two drachms of ether are poured on the sponge, the opening is again closed, and the patient passes into deep ether anæsthesia without any struggling or choking. The mouth is immediately opened and the operation proceeded with, the inhaler being kept in position until the operation is over and the operator working as deliberately as he desires. Patients as a rule recover very quickly (in a few minutes) and without sickness. For longer operations such as that for ununited fracture of the jaw, it is perhaps wiser to induce a full deep anæsthesia with an ordinary inhaler and when the operation is about to commence to maintain anæsthesia with the nasal inhaler, charging it however with about an ounce of ether in the indiarubber bag as the sponge chamber will not hold

sufficient ether for prolonged administration. During an operation for ununited fracture of the lower jaw in a powerful man addicted to alcohol perfect anæsthesia was in this way maintained without any trouble for over half an hour, the surgeon being in no way impeded or interrupted in his work. During the past nine months the inhaler has been tried in many dental and various surgical cases with surprising and unvarying success. The whole apparatus may be sterilised by boiling. The makers are Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, London, E.C.

H. C. DRURY, M.D. Dub.
M. F. THOMSON, L.D.S. Edin.

Dublin.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

AN ordinary meeting of the Council was held on March 9th, Mr. JOHN TWEEDY, the President, being in the chair.

Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson and Mr. Bilton Pollard were introduced and having made declarations in the terms of the oath prescribed by the Charter of 1800 were admitted members of the Court of Examiners.

A report was read from the Board of Examiners in Dental Surgery recommending the adoption by the Council of synopses indicating the range and extent in the subjects of anatomy, physiology, surgical pathology, and surgery for candidates for the licence in dental surgery.

The Senior VICE-PRESIDENT reported the delivery of the Hunterian Oration by the President on Feb. 14th.—The best thanks of the Council were given to the President for his oration and he was requested to publish it.

The PRESIDENT reported the delivery of the Erasmus Wilson lectures by Mr. Leonard S. Dudgeon and Mr. Percy W. G. Sargent on Peritonitis and he also reported that Mr. Stephen Mayou had delivered a course of three lectures on the Changes Produced by Inflammation in the Conjunctiva.

The PRESIDENT reported that in pursuance of the provisions of the Bradshaw bequest he had chosen Mr. Henry T. Butlin as Bradshaw lecturer for the ensuing collegiate year.

The Chairman of the Library Committee reported that the President had presented to the College eight volumes of fifteenth century books, forming a valuable and interesting addition to the collection of books of that period in the library.—The best thanks of the Council were given to the President for his gift.

The PRESIDENT reported that Sir Gilbert Blane's medals had been awarded to Surgeon Sidney Thomas Reid, H.M.S. *Vestal*, 1901-02, and Surgeon Robert William Glennan Stewart, H.M.S. *Latona* and *Thames*, 1903.

In accordance with the report of the Museum and General Purposes Committees it was resolved not to instal the electric light in the museum at present; this decision was arrived at chiefly on account of the cost.

Dr. J. WARD COUSINS presented a report of the proceedings of the Central Midwives Board for the past year. The report contained many matters of great interest and among these may be specially mentioned the necessity which exists for an amendment to the Midwives Act providing for a fair scale of remuneration of the medical men who may be summoned in cases of difficulty and danger by midwives.—The best thanks of the Council were given to Dr. Ward Cousins for his report.

A letter was read from the Lord President of the Privy Council transmitting a copy of a communication received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in regard to the Fifth International Congress on Gynæcology to be held at St. Petersburg in September, 1905.

After discussion it was resolved that the clause in the regulations of the Council relating to meetings of Fellows should be further suspended and that in place of the meeting of Fellows a subscription dinner should be held at the College on the day of the Council election in July next.

The PRESIDENT reported that he had had the honour of dining with His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on March 4th.