

LIBRARY TABLE.

The Story of the British Race. By JOHN MUNRO. London: Geo. Newnes, Limited. Price 1s.—This book is one of a Library of Useful Stories issued at popular prices and it is written with the idea of popularising the science of anthropology. Unfortunately, instead of putting into simple language the broad outlines of the difficult subject, the author has spent his ingenuity in describing the origin of the British race from a new standpoint and predicts for the results of his methods something like a revolution in the accepted mode of viewing ourselves. He then attacks well-known authorities and substitutes what he calls a "cephalic index" as a crucial test of racial origin.

Revue d'Hygiène et de Police Sanitaire. Vol. xxi., No. 3. Paris: Masson et Cie.—Of the three chief articles in the March number of this review that in which Dr. Ridolfo Livi deals with Vaccination and Variola in the Italian Army is perhaps the most interesting. As one of the results of his investigation Dr. Livi concludes that if the Italian army were composed, according to the views of the anti-vaccinationists, of persons never vaccinated there would be, out of an effective mean of 207,000 men, no less than 6007 cases of small-pox per annum and an annual loss of 1156 men.

JOURNALS AND REVIEWS.

The Ophthalmic Review. Edited by WILLIAM GEORGE SYM, M.D. Edin. London: J. & A. Churchill. January and February, 1899.—This review which was for so long and so ably conducted by Mr. Priestley Smith has now passed into the hands of Dr. Sym with the same distinguished men as collaborators who aided Mr. Priestley Smith, and in addition Dr. W. G. Laws of Nottingham and Dr. Charles H. Usher of Aberdeen. The first number for the present year contains an instructive article on Finding the Axis of Cylindrical Lenses, by Dr. E. E. Maddox. The second contains an article by Dr. Victor Miller on Idiopathic Recurrent Intraocular Hæmorrhages. Both numbers contain translations and notes.

Recueil d'Ophthalmologie. Janvier et Février. Paris: Alcan. 1899.—The chief articles contained in these two numbers of M. Galezowski's journal are one by M. Galezowski himself on the Treatment of Trachoma; another by Dr. Foveau de Courmelles on the Employment of X Rays in Ophthalmology; and a third by Dr. F. Ostwalt on a case of Traumatic Lesion of the Heart followed by Embolism of the Central Artery of the Retina.

Edinburgh Medical Journal.—The first article in the April number is by Dr. Caton of Liverpool, the subject being the Prevention of Valvular Disease of the Heart. Acute rheumatism is the most common starting-point of this condition and as a preventive measure all Dr. Caton's cases of rheumatism are clothed from head to foot in warm flannel during the whole of the acute period, kept in the most absolute rest in bed, and usually treated with gentle cholagogues and a salicylate preparation. As soon as a cardiac bruit is perceptible he applies in the course of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth intercostal nerve small blisters not much larger than a shilling, one at a time, with potassium or sodium iodide in addition to the salicylate. In a clinical lecture on a case of typhus fever Professor Greenfield discusses disinfection and pleads for the increased application of bacteriological science to practical medicine. Altogether there are eight original articles.

Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal.—In the April number Dr. J. W. Ballantyne (Edinburgh) publishes a long paper on the Present Position of the Pessary in Gynæcological practice. He does not hold with those who condemn pessaries altogether, but takes the view that they are valuable in certain cases. Dr. G. Lovell Gulland (Edinburgh) writes on Rapid Methods of Fixing and Staining

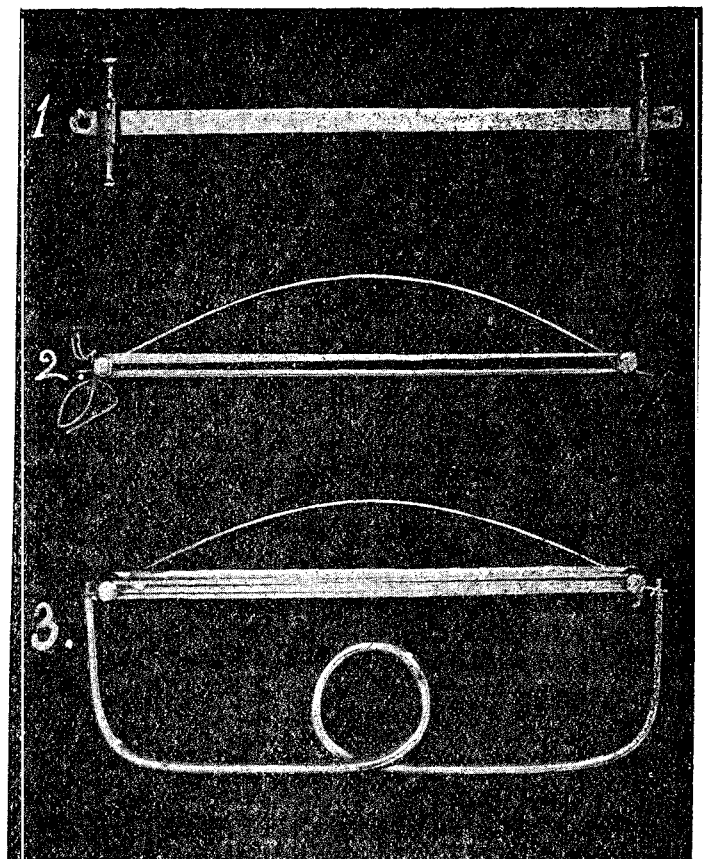
Blood Films. Wet films he fixes in a solution of a mere trace of sublimate in equal parts of absolute alcohol and pure ether; dried films in a mixture of formalin 10 parts and absolute alcohol 90 parts. Copious details of the various processes are given.

Birmingham Medical Review.—The original articles in the April number are on the Diagnosis between Supraphrenic and Subphrenic Pyopneumothorax, by Dr. T. S. Short; on the Treatment of Tuberculosis, by Mr. Lionel Stretton; and on the Spastic Paralysis of Children, by Dr. W. R. Jordan. With regard to birth palsies Dr. Jordan says that where there is no question of additional danger to the mother it is well to shorten as much as possible any labour which shows signs of being protracted, for the dangers of instrumental delivery are less than those of prolonged labour.

New Inventions.

A METHOD OF RETAINING THE ORIGINAL STRENGTH OF LIGATURES AFTER BOILING.

IF Chinese silk or green gut be sterilised by boiling in water in the ordinary way they become untwisted and lose much of their original strength. If we avoid this untwisting by keeping them upon the stretch during the boiling the original strength of the ligature is maintained. For this purpose the instrument figured below was made for me by Mr. J. Reynolds of Liverpool. I have used it for about two years and find that I can boil Chinese silk or green gut in water repeatedly without any loss of strength. The instrument consists of two parts, a



winder or spool and a handle. The spool is a flat steel spring seven inches long, having at each end a cross-bar over which the ligature is wound; beyond each cross-bar is a small eye (Fig. 1). The handle is a piece of rigid bent wire which fits into the eyes in the spool and holds the spring bent ready to receive the ligature; this greatly facilitates the winding of the ligature upon the spool (Fig. 3). When the ligature has been wound on the spool and the end fastened off the spring is released from the handle and is ready for boiling (Fig. 2). I have found both silk and green gut prepared in this way most satisfactory.

Liverpool.

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