

O'Connor, during the Peninsular war. Both books, it should be added, are capitally illustrated with plates and plans. Dr. Gordon Stables's volume, telling the story of three boys who sailed in search of fortune, is full of exciting situations and adventures and is likewise well illustrated. It is excellent reading for boys.

Messrs. C. ARTHUR PEARSON, Limited, have sent us the following:—*Strange Stories of the Hospitals*. By Frank Aubrey. Price 2s. 6d. This little book is published to be sold in aid of the metropolitan hospitals and medical charities. The author has presented it as a free gift to the Council of the Hospital Saturday Fund, who will receive all profits arising from the sale of the book and will apply them to the objects of the fund. This being so we will not attempt to criticise the stories further than to say that they are quite readable and will serve to enliven a spare half-hour. The expenses of publication have been borne by Lady Meux and Mr. Frank Isitt to whom as well as the author we offer our thanks for the assistance thus given to that form of charity in which we ourselves take a special interest.

## New Inventions.

### IMPROVEMENTS IN CRUTCHES.

WE have received from Messrs. Arnold and Sons, of West Smithfield, a pair of crutches of a new design, their distinguishing feature being that the padded leather-covered heads are not fixed immoveably to the uprights, but are capable of a limited rocking motion, so that as the person using them walks along the unavoidable-to-and-fro movement of the crutch does not cause the head to shift its position in the armpits. A uniform pressure under the arm is thereby given and friction against the armpit is reduced to a very small amount, adding to the comfort of the user and diminishing the tendency to wear out the sleeve of the coat or dress. The crutches are strong and quite rigid in respect of affording support to the body, and at the same time the heads possess a certain amount of elasticity and "give" which will be appreciated by users. They have a well-finished appearance, are light in weight, and are extremely simple in construction, having no springs or mechanism liable to become disordered. Messrs. Arnold and Sons state that a pair of these crutches have been recently tested by a cripple who walked 100 miles with them in one week without suffering from soreness or strain or otherwise distressing himself.

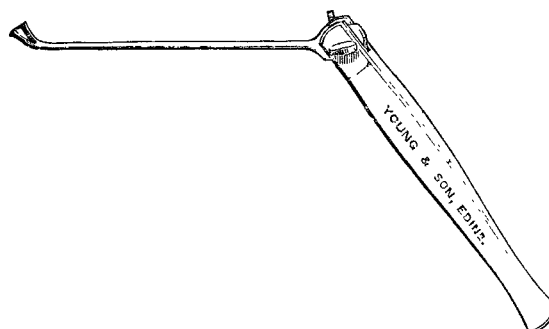
### MILNE'S RIBBON GAUZE.

EVERY surgeon must have experienced great difficulty in using strips of gauze for plugging wounds; the gauze cannot be torn and must be cut to form a strip and then the edges are very prone to fray, so that particles of cotton can very

easily be left in the wound. Mr. Charles Stonham has suggested the use of specially woven ribbon gauze with an edge which cannot fray, and the Galen Manufacturing Company, of Ladywell, London, S.E., have manufactured gauze of a uniform width of 2 in.; this is supplied either plain or medicated with the antiseptics in ordinary use, such as sal alembroth, carbolic acid, and iodoform. From a sample with which we have been supplied we are able to say that this ribbon gauze will prove useful for the purpose for which it is intended; it cannot fray as the threads of the woof do not terminate at the edge of the material. It is packed in bottles in convenient lengths of about 12 in.

### NASAL CURETTES.

THESE instruments, of which an illustration is given, have been designed for the purpose of performing curettement of the nasal mucous membrane. Each curette consists of a handle and a blade jointed together in such a way as to permit of its being flexed to, and fixed at, any angle that



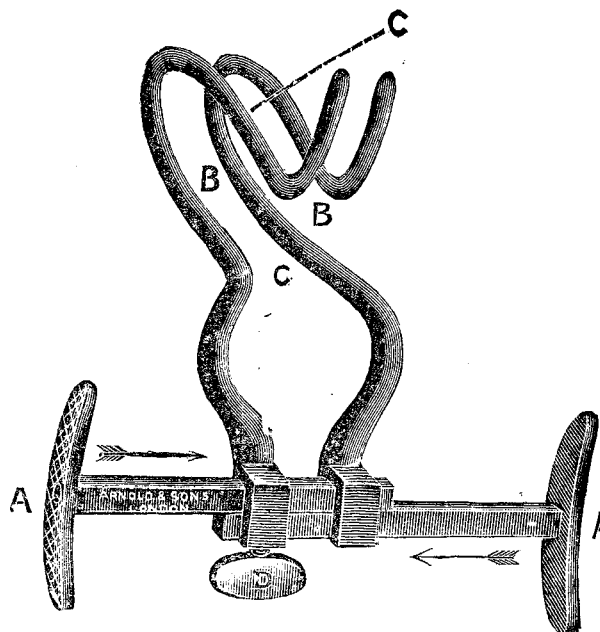
the operator may desire. The curettes, of which there are five in a set, vary according to the size, shape, and angle of their scraping points. They have been made for me by Messrs. Young and Son, Forrest-road, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh.

G. HUNTER MACKENZIE, M.D. Edin.

### A NEW PARALLEL EXPANDING RECTAL SPECULUM.

IT is said that the multiplicity of instruments for one use indicates that not one is perfect. If this be so no excuse is needed for invention or improvement. After a fair trial of the instrument represented below—which has been skilfully made by Messrs. Arnold and Sons at my suggestion—I can confidently recommend it. It is simple, effective, and self-retaining. Its open construction affords an extensive field, allowing



A A handles for use in insertion, D the binding screw fixing the slide marked by the arrows.

of many manipulations. Thus C C and B B are open spaces. To open the instrument the hand grasps and approximates A and A, or with obdurate sphincters the thumb may be placed in C, and C and A approximated. Thus the resistance of the sphincter is met by the intelligent hand and not by a lever or screw. The instrument is shown partly open. To withdraw see that D is not in action and press the blades together.

Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

JAMES MACMUNN