

Bacteriological Problems Considered from an Epidemiological Point of View, with a report of the discussion that followed its perusal. Dr. Hamer advanced in a tentative manner a challenge of the theory of the sole specific bacterial causation of infectious diseases as not explaining all the facts which have been established concerning epidemics, especially as regards such epidemiologically related diseases as diphtheria and scarlet fever. The paper is very suggestive and covers too much ground to be summarised in a few lines, but it deserves the attention of epidemiologists and bacteriologists alike. In the Neurological Section Dr. A. E. Russell and Mr. P. W. G. Sargent report a case of cerebral hæmorrhage in which the intra-cerebral pressure was relieved by trephining and evacuation of the blood-clot. There was slow and very imperfect recovery of motor functions nine months after the operation, but the evidence was inconclusive that such recovery could not have occurred with ordinary treatment. A case of Thrombosis of the Left Posterior Inferior Cerebellar Artery is fully and carefully reported by Dr. S. A. K. Wilson. In the Obstetrical and Gynæcological Section are described specimens of Carcinoma of the Ovary, shown by Mr. E. W. H. Groves; of Cystic Subperitoneal Fibroid and Retroperitoneal Cervical Fibroid, by Dr. A. H. N. Lewers; and of an Unusual Fibromyoma, by Mrs. Garrett Anderson. In the Odontological Section Mr. Philip Turner writes on the Treatment by Killian's Œsophageal Tube of a Denture, swallowed and impacted in the Œsophagus, and Mr. C. A. Clark describes a set of radiographs of the teeth and associated parts illustrating the uses and limitations of x rays in dental surgery.

New Inventions.

COMBINED TONGUE TRACTOR AND CHLOROFORM TUBE.

FOR some time it has occurred to me that the task of controlling the patient's tongue, thus securing a free air-way and at the same time avoiding interference with the surgeon's aseptic precautions, is in certain operations requiring difficult anæsthetic positions of the head less easy than it should be, and that there should be a simpler means of obviating the difficulty. Even in the most docile subject for anæsthesia in such an operation as that for goitre, where the head has to be kept in the straight line and generally extended, the tongue in most cases causes difficulty by falling back against the posterior wall of the pharynx. The general methods for obviating this complication are: (1) levering the tongue

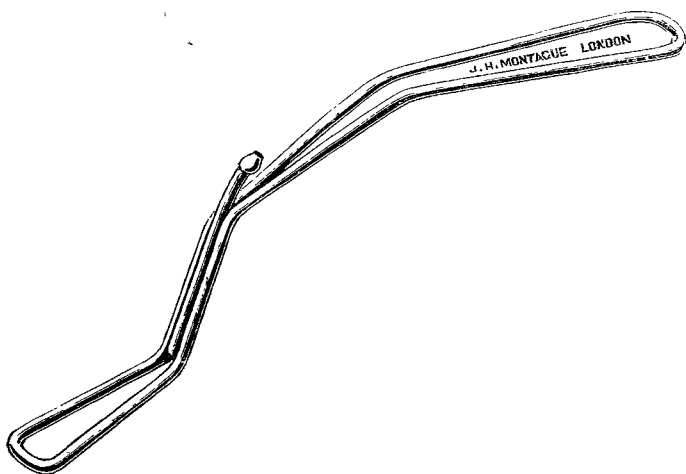
will probably in their application interfere with the operator and leave no free hand to work the bellows of the Junker apparatus. The above difficulties become greatly accentuated where the patient is of a bad type for the administration of anæsthetics, that is where he is short necked or plethoric, with overhung jaw or adenoids. With the object of trying to overcome these troubles Mr. J. H. Montague of 69, New Bond-street, London, W., has at my suggestion made the combined tongue tractor and chloroform tube shown in the illustration, which is used with a Junker apparatus. The instrument is as simple as an ordinary tongue spatula, with added angles for its adaptation to the mouth and teeth, and a tube for the chloroform vapour. The inner end when in position lies on the base of the tongue, and when there, what little leverage is required to maintain sufficient traction on the tongue is easily exerted by the thumb and forefinger on the handle, which will be opposite the patient's forehead. In my experience the tongue tractor appears to obviate the necessity of a gag or mouth-prop, but should the latter in any subsequent cases be found useful in keeping the lips apart, it could, of course, be used in conjunction with it, though for the reason given above I have refrained from complicating the instrument by any such addition. The tractor once in position, the mouth can be covered with sterilised gauze, and no interference with the surgeon's aseptic precautions should be necessary throughout the operation. The part of the tractor which lies against the teeth is covered with rubber. There are, of course, many operations in which it is difficult to control the tongue without interfering with the operator, such as operations on the face, neck, ear, and head, and in all these cases the tractor will, I think, be found to serve a useful purpose. In my own hands I found the administration of chloroform greatly facilitated by it, not only in the most difficult of these cases but also in operations on other parts of the body remote from the head. The points I claim are that: (1) it secures a patent air-way in operations where the position militates against one; (2) it obviates the necessity of interfering with the surgeon's aseptic precautions; (3) the position of the head and neck need not be altered during the operation for the purpose of securing the air-way; and (4) it leaves one hand entirely free for working the bellows.

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EXTRAORDINARY TENDERS FOR DRUGS.—At a meeting of the Devonport board of guardians held on March 5th attention was drawn to the extraordinary disparity in the different tenders for drugs. Iodide of potassium in one case was quoted at 1s. per pound, in another at 8s. a pound, and opium pills were offered at 2d. per gross.

CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY.—The twelfth annual dinner of this society took place on March 4th, at the Gaiety Restaurant, Strand, London, Mr. A. F. Penny, the President, being in the chair. There was a good attendance of members and their friends, and Dr. K. R. Collis Hallows, who was intrusted with the management of the dinner, received hearty congratulations on the success of his efforts. All the speeches were very short and this left plenty of time for a musical entertainment, in which the Rev. Dr. Collisson so delighted his audience with his musical burlesque on the theme of an erstwhile popular *chanson*, that the chairman had to protect him from the reiterated demands for encores. In the course of his remarks in proposing the toast of "The Chelsea Clinical Society," the President gave a history of the society and mentioned many interesting debates that had been held under its auspices. Dr. T. W. Parkinson, in replying, said that the effects of the work of the society had spread beyond the barriers of Chelsea. Dr. Seymour Taylor submitted "The Visitors and Kindred Societies," which was suitably acknowledged by Colonel Hendley and by the Rev. Dr. Collisson. At this point in the proceedings Mr. Julien Henry delighted the audience with Mr. A. P. Graves's well-known song, "Off to Philadelphia." In a concise speech, well delivered and happily phrased, Dr. J. Blumfeld gave the toast of "The President and Officers of the Society," which received a due acknowledgment and ended the proceedings of a well arranged entertainment.



forward with the flat of a tongue forceps and at the same time administering the chloroform through the tube of a Junker inhaler; (2) getting the tongue forward *via* the angles of the jaw; and (3) tongue traction by means of a ligature. All these methods appear to me to be clumsy and