

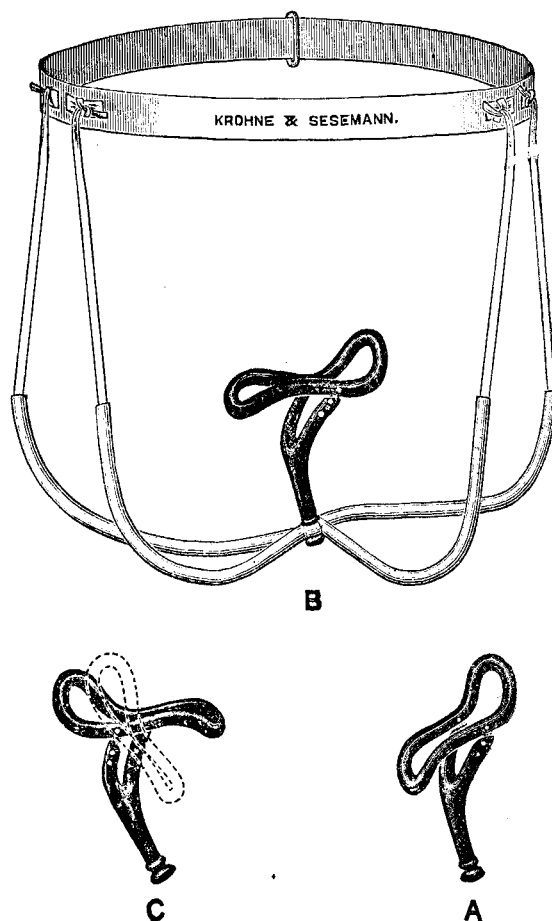
*The Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.* Edited by E. RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S., ADAM SEDGWICK, F.R.S., W. F. R. WELDON, F.R.S., and SYDNEY J. HICKSON, F.R.S. With Lithographic Plates and Engravings on Wood. London: J. & A. Churchill. September, 1900. Vol. XLIII. Part 4. Price 10s.—The articles contained in this part are: 1. Hippolyte Varians: a Study in Colour Change; by F. W. Gamble, D.Sc., Owens College, Manchester, and F. W. Keeble, M.A., Caius College, Cambridge; with five plates. In this interesting paper the remarkable faculty possessed by a species of prawn of changing its colour in accordance with the prevailing tint around it has been carefully observed. Specimens of this prawn are shown *in situ* clinging to various forms of seaweed and so closely simulating the colour of the weed, whether green, brown, or red, that close inspection is required to recognise their position. The rate of change is slow and takes place even in the dark, though much more rapidly in light. At night the general tint is blue; as day breaks and proceeds other colours appear, so that there is distinct periodicity due to the action of light; variations of temperature and electrical currents also induce changes of colour in these animals. The second article is by Edwin S. Goodrich, M.A., Aldrichian Demonstrator of Comparative Anatomy, Oxford, and is devoted to the consideration of the Nephridia of the Polychæta. It is illustrated by six plates. The author describes the nephridia of Alciopinæ, Phyllodocinæ, Syllidæ, Amphinomidæ, and Polygordiaceæ, and gives a general *résumé* of the most important facts described in this part and in two papers published in preceding numbers of the journal. 3. The last article is entitled "Nouvelles Observations sur les Peripatus de la Collection du Musée Britannique," par E. L. Bouvier, Professeur au Muséum de l'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. The title and contents of the forty-third volume conclude the part.

## New Inventions.

### A NEW PESSARY.

THE new instrument which I wish to introduce to the profession is our old friend "Hodge" in a new, and I deem an improved, guise, hinged, and with a stem. That there exists no satisfactory pessary for prolapsus uteri in its worst form or for ante-version or ante-flexion is, I believe, incontrovertible. In cases of prolapsus uteri "cup and stem" pessaries, temporarily convenient, are in the end failures. Probably the ulcerated os has been caused or aggravated by their use; besides, they mostly retain foul secretions, become merely vehicles for absorption of septic matter, and at the best are uncomfortable in use. Again, most of them subject the uterus and appendages to violent shock in any undue movement of the body, whilst the bladder and rectum are both, in many mechanical appliances, interfered with. In my instrument I claim: 1. Simplicity in construction and, therefore, that it is easy in application and practically aseptic. 2. The hinge action—in deviation about from 75° to 90°—simulates and acts harmoniously with the swing of the broad ligament and thereby lessens or annuls the danger of shock to the organs on impact upon the stem. 3. Neither bladder nor rectum are interfered with, and the dragging down and prolapse of the former are absolutely prevented. This hinge action in the ante-version and ante-flexion pessary is checked at a certain angle so that no pressure can act on the bladder; and in the pessary for retro-version or retro-flexion the same holds good, and the driving down of the posterior limb upon the rectum is avoided, pressure acting instead along the stem and therefore upon the rubber supports and waistband. 4. Although I have for the present adopted "Hodge" as a model I shall probably modify its shape, as with the forked and hinged stem I can,

if necessary, adopt a ring pattern. The whole apparatus can be self-applied by the patient with very little instruction from the medical attendant, and it can be easily cleansed. Old ulcerations induced by friction from badly-fitting pessaries or from external violence are soon cured, as by its use all pressure in the neighbourhood of the ulceration is



A, Ante-version pessary ready for insertion. B, Ante-version pessary *in situ*. C, Retro-version pessary: range of hinge movement.

removed. The size of the pessary, its length of stem, &c., can, of course, be modified to suit each particular requirement. My instructions and ideas have been carried out in a most satisfactory manner by Messrs. Krohne and Sesemann who have spared no trouble in order to meet my wishes.

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**DIPHTHERIA IN LEICESTER.**—The outbreak of diphtheria in Leicester continues to increase, 73 fresh cases and nine deaths being notified the week before last, as against 58, 54, and 39 notifications for the three preceding weeks, the resultant mortality in the latter case being 13, nine, and nine respectively. At Tuesday week's meeting of the Leicester Town Council the Sanitary Committee reported that 444 cases of the disease had been notified during the quarter, compared with 212 for the June quarter. The mayor, who is chairman of the committee, said that Mr. H. G. H. Monk, the medical officer of health, had visited every case of diphtheria which had been notified and had given it as his opinion that there was no cause for the disease, but that it spread from one child to the other. The mayor added that the Sanitary Committee were working in harmony with the School Board in the matter and strict injunctions had been given to see that children coming from a house where there was diphtheria should stay away from school for a month.—Councillor Hincks said he understood that one of the most fruitful sources of spreading diphtheria was the children's love of cats. That being so it might be well to get rid of the cats.—Councillor C. F. Bryan, M.R.C.S., was afraid that if they got rid of the cats mice would spread the disease. Another cause of spreading the disease was to be found in the slates used by the children at school. The children licked their fingers for the purpose of cleaning their slates and in that way the disease was often communicated.