

Handbook of Obstetric Nursing. By F. W. N. HAULTAIN, M.D., F.R.C.P. Edin., and J. HAIG FERGUSON, M.D., F.R.C.P. Elin. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1902. Pp. 267, with Frontispiece and 37 Engravings. Price 5s.—This excellent little handbook for the use of obstetric nurses has now reached a fourth edition. The authors have revised the account of the management of labour and more especially that of the third stage. They have also drawn up rules applicable to the antiseptic management of labour, both in hospital and in private practice. The book has been carefully revised and brought up to date. It is a good example of the kind of book suitable for obstetric nurses and does not err on the side of giving too detailed information. The authors have again included in an appendix the very useful memorandum issued by the British Medical Association of the regulations proposed for adoption by the Obstetric Nurses Board.

The Life of St. Luke. By EDWARD CLAPTON, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., late Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1902. Pp. 80. Price 1s. 6d.—This unpretending little work concerning the life of the patron saint of the medical profession consists in a catena of statements put together from the Gospel according to St. Luke, from the Acts of the Apostles, from Josephus, and from patristic writers. Besides these historical statements Dr. Clapton puts forward some theories of his own which are certainly reasonable enough in most cases. His theory that "the thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan," referred to by St. Paul, was "the mosquito produced malaria," Satan—i.e., Beelzebub—being the lord of flies, is ingenious and quite as likely to be true as any other theory. Dr. Clapton objects to physicians at the present day being called disciples of Æsculapius because, he says, the Asclēpiades of Pergamos were quacks. Very likely they were, but so far as we know Æsculapius was not and the treatment as carried out at his chief shrine, Epidaurus, was quite sound. We do not object to Christians being called disciples of Christ because the "Christian Scientists" are quacks.

The Book of Asparagus, with Sections also on Celery, Salsify, Scorzonera, and Seakale. By CHARLES ILOTT, F.R.H.S., Lecturer on Horticulture to the Cornwall County Council, together with Chapters on the History, Decorative Uses, and Cookery of these Vegetables by the Editor. London and New York: John Lane. 1901. Pp. 108. Price 2s. 6d.—This is the first of a series of handbooks on practical gardening and is edited by Mr. Harry Roberts, F.R.C.S., who may be congratulated on having produced a useful and pretty little book on a very interesting subject. Asparagus is a well appreciated vegetable which has well-marked and well-known physiological effects on man; seakale, like most of the other members of the order to which it belongs, has antiscorbutic properties; salsify and scorzonera are nourishing and palatable vegetables and deserve to be more generally grown. Celery is, of course, a universal favourite, but celeriac is appreciated chiefly by those who associate it with bright and happy days spent in Italy. It hardly falls within our scope to discuss the culture of vegetables and it must suffice to say that Mr. Ilott generally gives good advice. His teaching on asparagus represents a position about midway between the most enlightened teaching of the best French specialists on the subject and the crass ignorance of the ordinary English gentleman's gardener. The most interesting part of the book is that contributed by Mr. Roberts on the history of the vegetables, and perhaps the most useful that on the methods which may be employed in preparing them for the table. The vegetable *entrée* is too much neglected in England, a fact to be regretted both from a gastronomic and from a hygienic point of view. The book

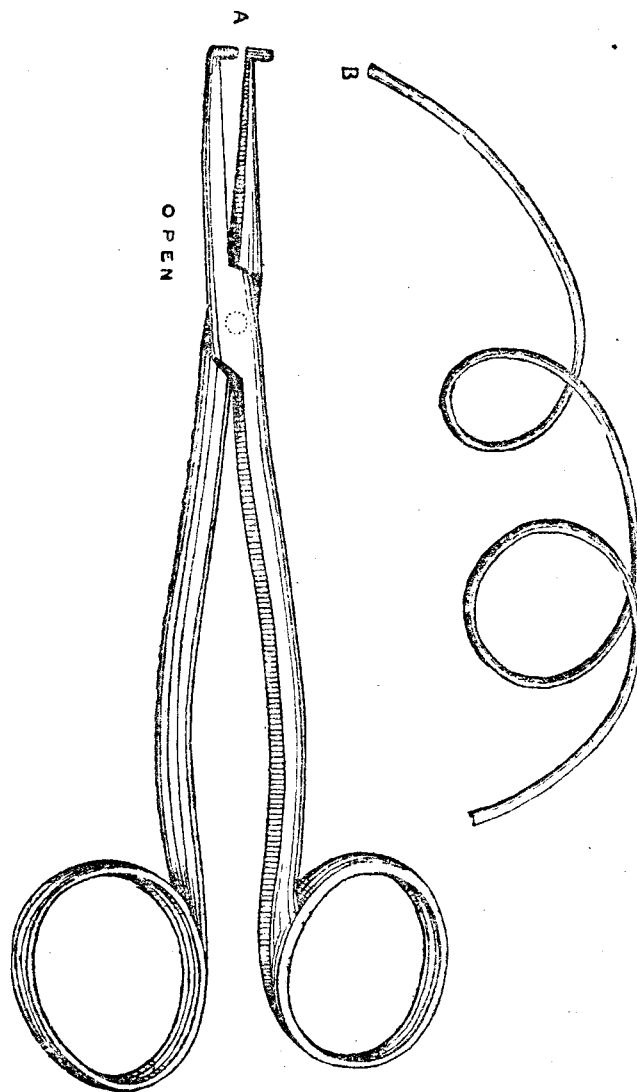
is well printed and contains 17 illustrations, some of which are very old friends.

A System of Physiologic Therapeutics. Vol. IV. Climatology. Book II.—In the description and review of this volume which appeared in THE LANCET of April 26th, 1902, page 1189, it was omitted to state that the work is by F. Parkes Weber, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., with the collaboration for America of Guy Hinsdale, A.M., M.D. Dr. Parkes Weber states that the connexion in that review of Dr. Coan's name with the remarks on sea-bathing is erroneous. Fuller particulars as to the title, authors, and editor of the work will be found in THE LANCET of April 19th, 1902, page 1115, above the review of Volume III. Book I.

New Inventions.

NEW FORCEPS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF DRAINAGE-TUBES.

DIFFICULTY having from time to time arisen in fixing Southey's fine drainage-tubing on the cannulas I have had made for me a pair of forceps which will undoubtedly do



away with that difficulty. The illustration speaks for itself. Mr. Staniforth of Church-street, Cardiff, is the maker.

Cardiff.

T. GARRETT HORDER.

A NEW FORM OF SPLINTING.

As a general practitioner I have often felt the need that exists for some form of light cheap splinting which can easily be cut when wanted into any desired shape and size, for it is

practically impossible for a country or suburban general practitioner to keep ready-made splints in sufficient variety of shapes and sizes for all the various fractures which he may at any time be called upon to treat. Gooch splinting is good and convenient but many splints, such as right-angled ones, cannot be made from it. Poroplastic also is good but is rather heavy, expensive, and requires moulding. Some time ago I made some splinting from corrugated boards—i.e., corrugated paper fastened between two sheets of cardboard. By fastening two such corrugated boards together with the corrugations in one at right angles to the corrugations in the other I obtained a splinting which I have used for about a year. This splinting has the following advantages:—(1) It is light; (2) it is easily and quickly cut with a penknife into any desired shape; (3) it is quite strong enough for any ordinary splint except a long hip-splint; (4) it requires very little or no padding, as the material itself is comfortable against a limb; (5) it is transparent to x rays, a rather important matter nowadays; and, lastly, (6) it is cheap. Further, it may be strengthened as much as can possibly be desired by the insertion of wires, such as bicycle spokes, into some of the corrugations, and in right-angled splints some of the spokes will go one way in one set of corrugations and some at right angles in the other set of corrugations, and in splints longer than bicycle spokes, the spokes can be inserted from each end, overlapping in the middle of the splint. Also, by cutting the splinting into the desired shape, then inserting a sufficient number of spokes or other wires, it can be then bent into many shapes suitable for orthopaedic purposes. For instance, I have used it successfully for splints for talipes plantaris to be worn at night instead of a Scarpa's shoe, the foot-piece being forcibly bent round at right angles to the leg-piece, and the angle can be easily strengthened by another such piece glued on to the outside. Tapes or elastics are easily fastened between the wires or spokes to hold down the toes in cases of hammer-toe, &c. The bicycle spokes, which are very strong and tough, are easily cut into desired lengths by a special though cheap cutter or simply "nicked" with a file and then broken off. For x-ray purposes these spokes can be withdrawn from all ordinary splints if desired without taking the splint off the limb and so again inserted. This splinting will not be so much required for stationary civil hospitals or by surgeons living near skilled instrument-makers, but by army and other moving hospitals, ambulances, and by the great numbers of general practitioners living in the country or suburbs who have to make their own splints as required.

Messrs. Arnold and Sons have recently made some of this splinting covered with white paper cardboard, in sizes of 30 inches square, and they can also supply the bicycle spokes and spoke-cutters.

GEORGE B. BATTEN, M.D. Edin.

Dulwich.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

AN ordinary meeting of the Comitia was held on April 24th, Sir WILLIAM SELBY CHURCH, Bart., the President, being in the chair.

The PRESIDENT announced that Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., had consented to act as the delegate of the College at the Medical Congress to be held in Cairo in December and that Dr. J. F. Payne would represent the College at the tercentenary celebration of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The President also announced that owing to the illness of Dr. J. W. Washbourn the Croonian Lectures would not be delivered until November. The President further informed the College that the following Fellows had been appointed to act as a committee to make suitable arrangements for the erection of stands and decorations at the time of the Coronation: The College Officers, Dr. C. Theodore Williams, Dr. W. H. Allchin, and Dr. Oswald A. Browne.

The following gentlemen having passed the required examination were admitted Members of the College: Dr. Joseph Shaw Bolton, Dr. William Philip Sutcliffe Branson, Mr. Gerald Godfray Giffard, Dr. Charles Herbert Melland, Dr. Sidney Vere Pearson, Dr. Edward Furniss Potter, and Dr. Walter Henry Maxwell Telling.

Licences to practise physic were granted to 123 gentlemen who had passed the required examination. The Examiners for the Murchison Scholarship reported that they had decided to advise the College not to award the scholarship for this year.

The following Members of the College were on the nomination of the council elected to the Fellowship: Dr. Henry Carr Maudsley (Melbourne, Australia), Dr. William Camac Wilkinson (Sydney, New South Wales), Dr. Frank Montague Pope, Dr. Edward Malins, Dr. William Alfred Wills, Dr. Thomas Hancock Arnold Chaplin, Dr. William Page May, Dr. Arthur George Phear, Dr. George Francis Blacker, Dr. John Fawcett, Dr. Herbert Campbell Thomson, Dr. Albert Sidney Frankau Grünbaum, Dr. James Barr, and Dr. Joseph John Perkins.

The following communications were received: 1. From the secretary of the College of Surgeons reporting certain proceedings of the Council on April 10th. 2. From the General Medical Council submitting certain questions with respect to the courses of study in chemistry, physics, and biology required from candidates for the conjoint diplomas, and announcing that the examinations of the Colleges in those subjects will be visited and reported on for the Council during the present year.

A report was received from Dr. NORMAN MOORE on the proceedings of the General Medical Council at the special session held in February last.

Dr. FREDERICK J. SMITH submitted the draft of a petition from an Association of Licentiates of the College and of Members of the College of Surgeons of England, and asked permission that the petition might be presented to the College by a deputation at a future date. After some discussion, in which Dr. MOORE, Dr. ALLCHIN, and Dr. PAYNE took part, it was resolved, on a motion proposed by Dr. SMITH and seconded by Dr. DAWSON WILLIAMS, that leave should be given for the presentation of the petition, but that it was not the wish of the College that this should be accomplished by means of a deputation.

A report was received from the Committee of Management dated March 10th. The Walsall Municipal Science and Art Institute was recognised for instruction in chemistry, physics, and practical chemistry. The regulation recently adopted by the General Medical Council with respect to the attendance at a fever hospital in the case of a registered practitioner who desires to obtain the diploma in public health was also referred to and it was resolved that the Committee of Management should draft a letter to the General Medical Council drawing the attention of that council to the disadvantages under which the candidates from London medical schools are placed by the impossibility of their obtaining the necessary instruction at the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

A second report was received from the Committee of Management dated March 17th, in which it was recommended that the course of clinical instruction in lunacy given by Dr. T. Claye Shaw at St. Luke's Hospital, Old-street, London, should be recognised as fulfilling the conditions of Clause 10, Section 1, of the regulations of the Examining Board in England.

Both these reports were adopted. After some further formal business the PRESIDENT dissolved the Comitia.

FESTIVAL DINNER OF ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL.—

Sir Joseph Dimsdale, M.P., the Lord Mayor of London, presided over the festival dinner of St. Mark's Hospital, held at the Hôtel Métropole on April 24th to celebrate the sixty-sixth anniversary of the hospital. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured the Lord Mayor gave the toast of the evening, "St. Mark's Hospital." He pointed out that in collecting funds for the hospital they were under a certain amount of disadvantage because the institution rendered assistance to persons suffering from diseases that prevented the friends of the charity from pleading for help with the same freedom and openness in public that was possible in the case of other hospitals. There was an assured annual income of a little over £2000 a year and that had to be increased to £4500. In the course of the evening it was announced that the list of donations reached a total of over £2000. The following gentlemen spoke in the course of the evening: Mr. R. B. Martin, M.P. (treasurer), Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Bell, Mr. D. H. Goodsall, Mr. F. S. Edwards, Mr. E. F. Carey, and Viscount Dungarvan.