

Parsons: The Muscles of Mammals, with special relation to Human Myology. 11. Mr. J. H. F. Wilgress of Selwyn College, Cambridge: A Note on Hereditary Stiffness of the Metacarpo-phalangeal Joint of the Thumb. 12. Dr. Edred Corner of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge: On Some Skulls from Ceylon. 13. Professor Richard J. Anderson: Some Notes on the Manus of the Dugong. 14. Dr. Edward Fawcett: Some Points concerning the Mounting of Dissections in Basins. 15. Archæologia Anatomica. 16. Mr. R. J. McClelland (student): Note on a Moderator Band in the Left Ventricle and a Perforate Septum Ovale in the Heart of a Sheep. 17. Professor Bertram C. A. Windle: Eighth Report on Recent Teratological Literature. Lastly, there are notices of new books, a report on the Association of American Anatomists, and the index to Vol. XXXII. of the journal.

Medical Temperance Review.—The September number contains an abstract of a paper on Alcohol in Drugs and Drug Preparations read by Dr. Norman Kerr at the meeting of the British Medical Association. There is also an account of the proceedings at the annual medical temperance breakfast which took place in Edinburgh during the meeting of the Association. The speakers were Professor Simpson, Dr. Sims Woodhead, Dr. Clouston, Dr. Ridge, Dr. Connel, and Mr. A. P. Young.

Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal.—The original articles are on Colotomy (by Mr. F. T. Paul), on the Influence of Skin Condition on Surgical Procedure and on the Treatment of Eczema by Counter-irritation (by Mr. Colin Campbell), on Sewage Disposal (by Dr. H. R. Jones and Dr. Frank Robinson), on Foreign Bodies and the Use of the x Rays (by Mr. C. T. Holland), on Practical Gynæcology (by Dr. William Alexander), and on Cholecystitis as a Complication of Enteric Fever (by Dr. C. A. Hill). As usual the bulk of the journal consists of reports of the meetings of the Liverpool Medical Institution.

Mercy and Truth.—The numerous articles include an account of the Kashmir State Leper Hospital, by Dr. E. F. Neve. There is a full-page photo-print of a Chinese Opium Smoker.

In the *Phonographic Record* for September contributions by Sir W. R. Gowers on Syphilitic Disease of the Cerebral Arteries and by Mr. Peyton Beale on the Use of Alcohol as a Wound Dressing deserve attention. Sir W. R. Gowers says that as an indication of previous syphilis great reliance may be placed upon loss of the pupillary action to light, whilst the reaction of accommodation is not impaired. Mr. Beale, whose article we referred to last week, finds that alcohol applied as methylated spirit on double cyanide gauze promotes rapid union of wounds and checks serous exudation, so that the risk of the wound becoming infected after the first dressing is very slight. Dr. Atchley's Note on a Cancer Cure of the Eighteenth Century shows that vaunted specifics for cancer were known more than 100 years before the days of Mattei; and the concluding instalment of Dr. Fletcher Beach's Observations on Mentally Deficient Children is marked by many helpful suggestions on the psychology and treatment of these alien outcasts.

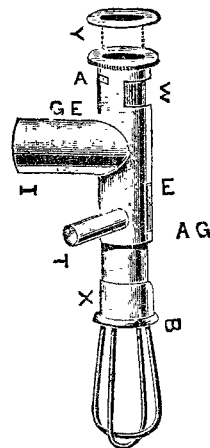
PLYMOUTH INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.—

On Sept. 13th the Plymouth Board of Guardians received from their Visiting Committee a report which contained serious allegations as to the treatment of the workhouse children sent to the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital. On Sept. 16th the hospital sub-committee of the town council held an inquiry into these allegations, with the result that all the charges against the hospital were emphatically denied. The affair had created a considerable amount of interest in the Three Towns and much more will probably be heard about the matter. It is certainly to be regretted that the guardians did not give the Sanitary Committee and hospital officials an opportunity of replying to the charges before they adopted the report.

New Inventions.

A THREE-WAY COCK FOR ADMINISTERING NITROUS OXIDE GAS AND ETHER; FOR USE WITH CLOVER'S INHALERS.

THIS device consists of a T-shaped tube with two telescoping tubes x and y at either end of the horizontal limb.



A small ether bag is passed over the shoulder B. The gas enters by a tube T and is guided into the bag which it distends. The vertical limb I fits into a Clover or similar inhaler. With both y and x pulled out the patient breathes air. Push y in and the inspiratory and expiratory valves are brought into action. Push x in and they are thrown out of action and he breathes backwards and forwards into the bag. The movements are controlled by slot-pins and the letters opposite these indicate the action of the valves, thus for breathing Air the slot-pins will be at A and A G, for breathing Gas they will be at G E and A G, and for breathing Ether they will be at G E and E.

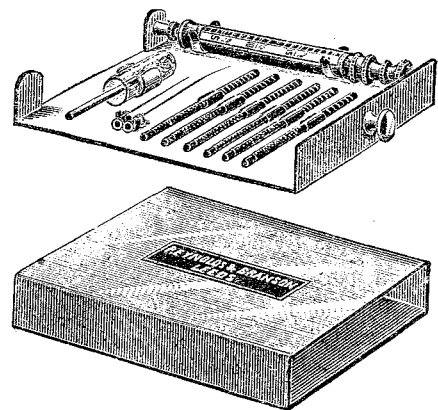
The advantages claimed for the apparatus are that it is simple of construction, that it can be fitted to a Clover's inhaler, and that an ordinary small ether bag only is required, and ether anaesthesia can be continued without changing the bag. It has been used by myself and my colleagues at Wolverhampton General Hospital for more than a year with very satisfactory results. It is made by Mr. F. Ash of Birmingham.

J. A. CODD, M.D., B.Sc. Lond.,

Honorary Assistant Physician, General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

IMPROVED ASEPTIC HYPODERMIC SYRINGE AND CASE.

THE accompanying illustration shows a new form of aseptic all-metal hypodermic syringe and case. The advantages claimed for it are, that it can be easily sterilised, that it is durable, that it holds a number of tubes of com-



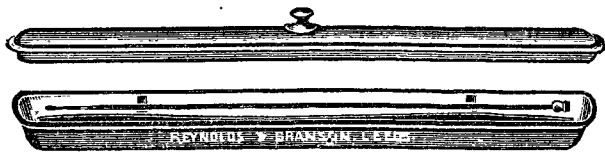
pressed drugs, all the articles in the case are easily got out, and that, being compact, it can be carried in the waistcoat pocket very conveniently. It is manufactured by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, of Leeds.

E. MILWYN JENKINS, M.B., C.M. Glasg.
Shaftesbury House, Calverley.

A NEW CATHETER DISH.

THE accompanying illustration shows a dish which I have designed for the reception of flexible catheters in daily use. It consists of an elongated narrow vessel, furnished with an overlapping lid, and it is sufficiently long to admit a catheter of ordinary length without flexion being necessary. The catheter rests on two transverse ridges attached to the bottom of the dish, so that the antiseptic solution with which the dish is filled surrounds the instrument. A flexible catheter, once having been used, has to be bent to be placed in most of the receptacles as used at present and this frequently produces "kinking" or injury at the eye. In my

dish the catheter can be kept perfectly straight and a minimum amount of solution is required to keep it submerged. The vessel being long and flat it may be kept by a patient's bedside without fear of upsetting it, and the shallow depth combined with the absence of angles renders the dish very easily cleansed and sterilised. A label may be attached



to the handle or the patient's name may be written directly in ink or pencil on the lid. The dishes will serve for all forms of flexible catheters or bougies and may also be used for drainage tubes. They are manufactured of iron, enamel ware, glass, or porcelain, and may be obtained from Messrs. Reynolds and Branson of Leeds at a small cost.

H. DE PAIVA B. VEALE, L.S.A. Lond.,
Late House Surgeon General Infirmary, Leeds.

A MODIFIED UTERINE SOUND.

THE many dangers incidental to the use of the ordinary uterine sound, even in skilful hands, may, I think be avoided by the use of the instrument depicted in the illustration. The various manipulations for which the sound in its original form has been found so useful can be equally effected and without danger by its use in the modified form. During the operations for vaginal or abdominal hysterectomy it will be found useful for lifting the uterus or deflecting it to either side or carrying it to the front or back. The sound is constructed of flexible copper, plated, with the addition of a metal disc on which the os and cervix rest; this is placed two inches from the point, thus making it impossible to penetrate the fundus (the weight of the uterus being borne by the disc and not by the point), which was a serious fault of the original instrument. The entire sound being made of metal can be easily sterilised, while the handle being pear-shaped will afford additional power in manipulation (more especially in operation cases) and be found more comfortable to the hand than the older form. Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London, are the makers.

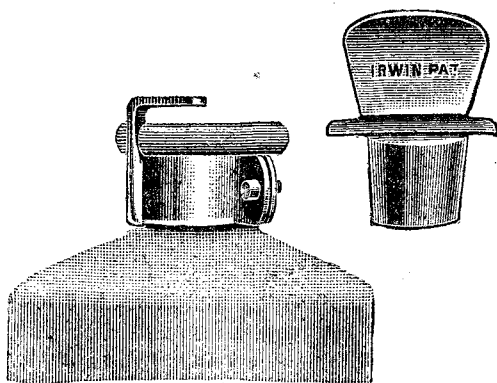


Cheltenham.

ALEXANDER DUKE, F.R.C.P. Irel.

A NEW ANÆSTHETIC BOTTLE.

DR. FREDERIC HEWITT has asked us to draw the attention of our readers to a new and efficient bottle for ether, chloroform, and allied substances. It is the invention of



Mr. Irwin, of 4, Cottage-grove, Stockwell, S.W., from whom bottles of various sizes (6 oz., 12 oz., and 18 oz. capacity)

may be obtained. The stoppers are made of a special alloy and each one is ground into the glass neck of its bottle, so that a very accurate fitting results. In placing the stopper in its bottle it has simply to be turned a little and the projecting metal rod shown on the left hand side of the stopper in the illustration wedges more and more tightly under the metal arm carried by the collar round the neck of the bottle. In this simple way perfect accuracy of fitting is secured and the stopper cannot be dislodged until it is released by turning it back. Dr. Hewitt has tried the system for three months and finds that it works well. Each bottle is supplied with a leather case, which has the advantage of being lighter than the wooden case generally used.

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN LUNACY.

THE fifty-second annual report of the Commissioners in Lunacy provides the usual statistical review of the certified insane in England and Wales and a critical retrospect of the different institutions set apart for the care and treatment of those afflicted with mental disease. The total number of persons of unsound mind under the supervision of the Lunacy Commission on Jan. 1st, 1898, was 101,972, being an increase of 2607 over that of the previous year. Figures like these are warranted to arouse a feeling of anxiety in the public mind, and at first sight it would appear that the malady is tightening its grip upon the community. The statistics are no doubt disquieting, but if we accept the views of the Commissioners, set forth in the special report issued last year, as correct, the increase is more apparent than real. The Commissioners attributed the higher numbers to various causes, amongst others the increase in the general population, a gradually diminishing death-rate in the institutions under their control, and an enhanced tendency on the part of relatives and others to send senile cases to the asylums for treatment. These and certain other influences undoubtedly account in a large measure for the increase, but it is more than questionable whether they account for all. It would be well if the Commissioners could see their way to include in their statistical returns a table showing the number of first cases in which the insanity developed itself within three months before admission. There ought to be no difficulty in compiling such a table; it would unquestionably prove a surer means of gauging the actual rate of freshly occurring insanity than some of the theoretical methods so frequently employed. The table itself could not fail to be a valuable addition to the statistical returns presented from year to year, some of which, we regret to say, are absolutely useless and only serve to cumber the pages of the blue-book. The actual increase above notified is caused mainly by a large increment in the pauper class—viz., 2486. There were 124 more private patients and 3 fewer criminal lunatics. The ratio of registered insane to the population on Jan. 1st, 1898, amounted to 32.48 per 10,000, a differential increase of 0.48 on last year's ratio. According to the Commissioners' figures in the year 1859 1 person in 536 was insane, whereas this year it is computed that 1 person in 308 is of unsound mind.

The ratio per cent. of the pauper insane to paupers of all classes is perhaps the fairest test for determining the prevalence of insanity in the community, for the actual pauper population is known and the number of pauper insane within the cognisance of the Lunacy Board embraces, with but few exceptions, the total number of pauper insane in the country. The ratio of paupers to the population is fairly stationary, but there has been a gradually progressive rise in the ratio of pauper lunatics to paupers of all classes during the last decade. The ratio in 1889 was 9.25 per cent.; in 1898 it stands at 11.08 per cent. This represents an actual increase in the ratio of pauper lunatics to paupers of all classes of 1.83 per cent. during the two years, but, according to the official view, as before explained, the increase is mainly due to accumulation and to the gathering within the official net of numbers of the class described as "unregistered lunatics,"