

questions considered in the section on Forensic Medicine are: The Bases for Expert Testimony; Insane Heredity and Suicide in Relation to Testamentary Capacity; the Feeble-minded Criminal; the Legal Aspects of Epilepsy; and the Illinois Procedure in Annulment of Marriage for Prior Insanity.

The Seaside and Inland A B C Holiday Guide for the United Kingdom. London: The Wentworth Publishing Company. 1907 Edition. Price 6d. net.—This is a useful little book of reference. It contains concise accounts interspersed with photoprints of the chief British holiday resorts, inland and seaside, arranged in alphabetical order. At the end is an index of the golf courses of the United Kingdom and of the angling stations. We note that it is claimed for Hastings that it heads the list for all England as regards its record of sunshine. We may remind our readers of the lists which appeared in THE LANCET on Jan. 26th, 1907 (p. 243), and March 9th, 1907 (p. 676), and we may be excused for doing so as we are sure that many people contemplating their holidays will be glad to study the sunshine records after the gloomy weather which we have experienced lately. It may not be necessary then to take too seriously the announcements of a certain radiant heat and light treatment to which over-frequent attention is called throughout the book.

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES.

The Asylum News.—The June number of this journal contains a full account of the annual meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association under the presidency of Sir William Collins. In his interesting presidential address he briefly reviewed the ethics of asylum work and the reform which had taken place in the treatment of the insane since the days of Hogarth. Although dealing chiefly with the ethical side of asylum nursing Sir William Collins also gave some sound advice in respect of the intellectual aspect of this special work. The address was excellent both in diction and matter and was in every way eminently suited to the audience. The annual report for 1906 of the Asylum Workers' Association is also published in this number of the *Asylum News* and it shows what active work is being done by this body for the welfare of its members. The Bills before Parliament concerning the registration of nurses have been carefully watched in the interest of asylum nurses, both male and female. During the year 1906 the questions of housing accommodation for married attendants and pensions for asylum workers have been under the consideration of the executive committee and the report indicates that everything is being done to bring these matters to the notice of the Government.

Caledonian Medical Journal.—The first of the original articles in the July number is entitled "The Rôle of the General Practitioner in the Advancement of Medical Science." The author is Dr. James Mackenzie of Burnley who says that there are great questions which are not likely to be solved until the general practitioner takes his share in systematic research. Examples of this kind are to be found in the observation of the progressive development of chronic ailments and in the recognition of that stage of disease when the prospect of successful treatment has passed. Dr. Keith Norman Macdonald relates many reminiscences of the medical curriculum at the University of Edinburgh in the early "fifties." Colonel Kenneth Macleod, I.M.S., contributes a sketch of the Indian medical administration through many stages of development from the year 1600 to the present day. In the editorial paragraphs it is announced that the annual meeting of the Caledonian Medical Society will be held at Bradford on July 25th.

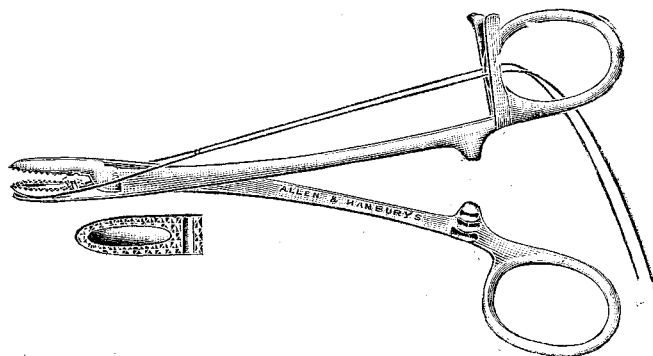
The American Journal of Insanity (April).—Among the several interesting papers in this number of the *American Journal of Insanity*, the following call for special attention.

Dr. Solomon C. Fuller's paper on a Study of the Neuro-fibrils in Dementia Paralytica, Dementia Senilis, Chronic Alcoholism, Cerebral Lues, and Microcephalic Idiocy is an instructive digest on this subject and is accompanied by 13 excellent plates. Dr. C. Lee Carlisle's article on Maniacal Conditions in Young Adults deals with the differential diagnosis between the non-deteriorative and the deteriorative psychoses. He clearly shows the clinical distinctions between the symptom complex known as manic-depressive insanity and the katatonic excitement in dementia præcox. Dr. William Macdonald contributes a paper entitled, "General Paresis or Cerebral Syphilis?" It is written to warn the student not to accept too readily the statement commonly found in text-books that "cerebral syphilis and parietic dementia are diseases which can be readily differentiated from each other." Dr. G. A. Smith supplies an excellent paper on the Application of the Cottage System to the New Hospital. Dr. Smith states that he has had 20 years' experience of the colony system as applied to the care of the insane, and he evidently strongly commends it as giving the most satisfactory results alike with regard to treatment, occupation, and proper classification of the patients. The journal also contains a most interesting letter from a French correspondent on medico-legal expert testimony. He writes that in France experts in criminal matters are named according to the following rules: At the beginning of each judicial year the Courts of Appeal name from the lists proposed by the tribunals of first instance within their jurisdiction doctors of medicine on whom they confer the title of "court experts." In order to be named a candidate must have practised medicine at least five years or hold a diploma for medico-legal studies. Expert physicians named on these conditions by the courts are, in principle, the only ones to whom an expert report can be intrusted. The expert is not allowed to receive any fee for his services if he appears in court as a witness. He is paid from the public Treasury and the payments are according to a scale which is by no means a liberal one. The French expert is never invited to take the part of either the prosecution or the defence, as his fundamental quality is to be impartial. It is evidently recognised in France that the occupation of expert is an important and difficult one and recently the Universities of Paris and Lyons have taken up the special instruction of the medico-legal physician.

New Inventions.

ARTERY FORCEPS AND LIGATURE COMBINED.

THIS forceps, suggested by Dr. Schoemaker of the Hague Hospital, has for its principal feature an ingenious device by which the application of a ligature to a severed artery is greatly facilitated. As shown in the accompanying illustration, the middle of the ligature, which must be more than



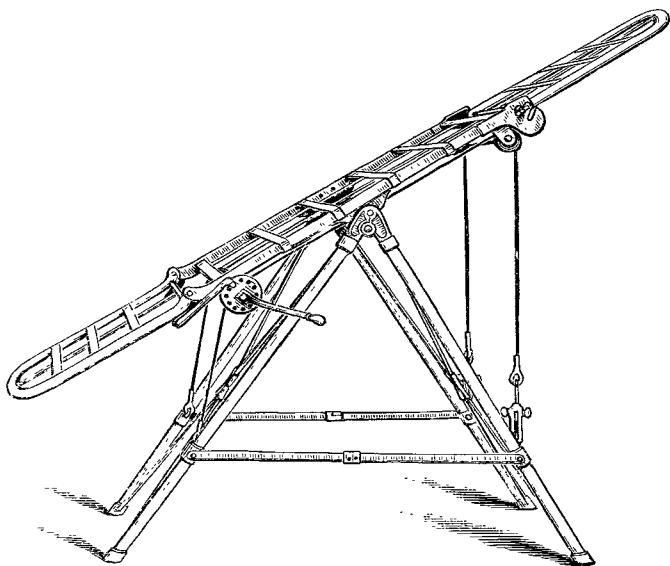
twice as long as the forceps, rests in a notch at the extremity of one of the blades, whilst the free ends after being tied loosely into the first half of an ordinary

knot are temporarily held out of the way behind two flat springs attached to the ring handle. It will be seen from the illustration that any long object caught in the forceps is necessarily surrounded by this loop so that drawing the loop close and tying the second half of the knot secures the artery. The inner aspect of each blade has a shallow recess in the central portion and is also provided with a transverse groove which might serve for holding a needle. In other respects the forceps has a great resemblance to the ordinary English artery forceps named after the late Sir Spencer Wells. It is made in two sizes—five inches long (price 6s. 6d.) and seven inches long (price 8s. 6d.). The London agents are Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Limited, 48, Wigmore-street, W.

A NEW PORTABLE OPERATION TABLE.

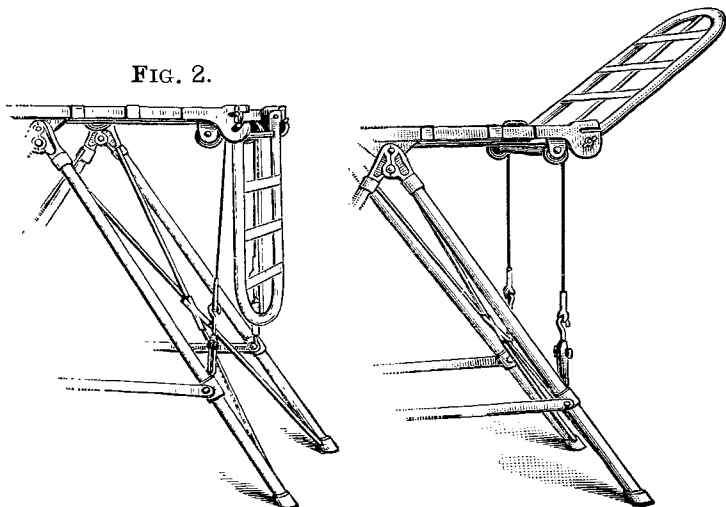
It is not from a wish to add another portable table to the long list of those already in existence that I have devised the one here depicted. My reason for planning this table, and having it made, is that there are, in my opinion, grave defects in all those at present on the market; this one, however, has at least the essential attributes of a good operation table in a portable form

FIG. 1.



and the following points may be referred to. 1. It is light, weighing about 35 pounds (i.e., about the same weight as an ordinary Jordan Lloyd's flat wooden table). 2. When folded, the size in a canvas cover is 40 by 23 by 7½ inches and it can be put up or taken down in a few seconds.

FIG. 3.



3. It is made entirely of steel. 4. It is absolutely rigid. 5. Any of the surgical positions can be obtained. The method of obtaining the Trendelenburg position is a new one and very simple. As will be seen from Fig. 1, two thin wire hawsers pass round cylinders underneath the body of the table, and

are controlled by the handle at the right hand of the anæsthetist, who can thus turn the table into the Trendelenburg position in a moment. The patient is kept from sliding down by shoulder props or anklets (which I prefer), according to the fancy of the operator. It is important to notice, too, in regard to this position that the table turns on the central axis and is not raised in the middle portion to the detriment of the operator, a fault common to almost all portable tables. The lowering or raising of the end of the table alone, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, is also accomplished by a new and simple device, which, as with the method of obtaining the Trendelenburg position, does away with the necessity of any rack.

I may add, lastly, that it is the cheapest metal table of the sort on the market. I venture to hope that it will be specially serviceable to gynaecologists, to whom the Trendelenburg position is essential.

Messrs. White and Wright, 93, Renshaw-street, Liverpool, have made the table for me, and I am much indebted to them for having conducted expensive experiments and for having so faithfully carried out my instructions.

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A NEW TOURNIQUET.

THIS tourniquet is very simple in its construction, consisting of only two parts,—namely, a stout vulcanised india-rubber tube of any desired length and a cylindrical ring to which two hooks are jointed. The tube is passed through the ring and round the injured limb, after which its ends are securely clamped by pulling them into the angle at the bend of the hooks. The tension is easily adjusted and controlled, being regulated from both ends and not from one end only as in many tourniquets. So long as the indiarubber remains in good condition the purpose would be served, but this substance is, of course, liable to deteriorate from a variety of causes. The new tourniquet is made by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, Aldersgate-street, London, E.C., who have called it the "Securitas." The price is 4s. 9d.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE annual election of members of the Council was held at the College in Lincoln's Inn Fields on July 4th. There were four vacancies and seven candidates: Mr. H. W. Page, Mr. C. W. Mansell Moullin, and Mr. F. S. Eve were applying for re-election; and Mr. Charles Higgins, Mr. W. Bruce Clarke, Mr. Charters J. Symonds, and Mr. W. D. Spanton were applying for election. The polling commenced at 3 o'clock and was closed at 5 o'clock. The counting of the votes lasted an hour and a quarter and the result was as follows:—

	Number of votes.	Plumpers.
C. J. SYMONDS	452	26
W. BRUCE CLARKE... ..	413	52
C. W. MANSELL MOULLIN	403	6
F. S. EVE	388	3
H. W. PAGE	349	11
W. D. SPANTON	348	34
C. HIGGINS	234	10

The PRESIDENT (Mr. HENRY MORRIS) announced the result and declared that Mr. Mansell Moullin and Mr. Eve were re-elected and that Mr. Symonds and Mr. Bruce Clarke were elected members of the Council.

It was the heaviest poll that has ever been taken. In all 892 votes were received, 873 being received through the post, and of these two were disallowed as the signatures of the voters were not witnessed and three were received after the opening of the poll; one was disallowed also because the voting paper was blank. 14 Fellows voted in person.

Mr. T. Crisp English and Mr. Willmott H. Evans acted as scrutineers.

ON Friday, July 19th, Lady Duckworth-King will open the new electrical department of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital presented by Mrs. Sanders in memory of her husband and son, both of whom were formerly Presidents of the hospital.