

more recent opinions on prostatectomy, and castration in producing a diminution of size when the gland is hypertrophied are given. In the treatment of stricture No. 16 is given as the full size of the urethral instrument which may be ultimately passed. The treatment of varicocele is given in few words, there being no longer a description of several fanciful methods not free from danger. "Since the introduction of the antiseptic treatment of wounds the various methods which were at one time adapted for the subcutaneous ligature or strangulation of the enlarged veins have been superseded by the more certain plan of ligature and excision." The intra-peritoneal method of operating for uterine fibroid tumours is described as well as the extra-peritoneal. Pelvic suppuration is, perhaps, too briefly treated of in this edition, whilst the operation for ruptured tubal pregnancy is mentioned for the first time.

The volumes present several new illustrations which are useful additions and enhance the value of the work, whilst we note the omission of several of the old ones. Altogether the impression which remains with us is that the most marked improvement is in the scientific, especially the bacteriological, as contrasted with the practical part. We must, however, congratulate all concerned in the work on the production of a thoroughly sound and valuable text-book.

LIBRARY TABLE.

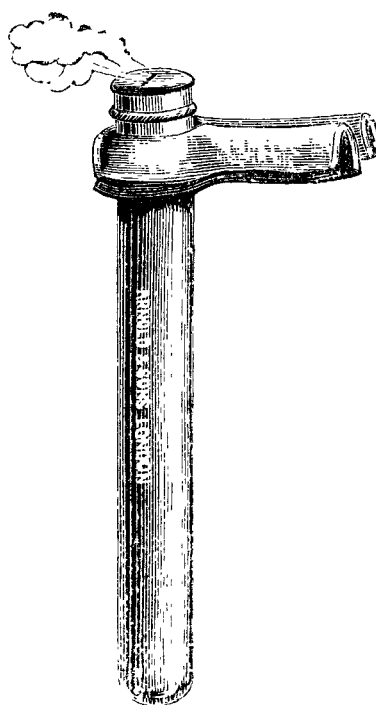
A Few Medical and Surgical Reminiscences. By AUGUSTIN PRICHARD, Surgeon. Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith. 1896.—The experiences of an observant young man who has spent eight years in studying medicine successively in Bristol, London, Berlin, Vienna, and Paris cannot fail to include many diverting incidents, and when, after the lapse of more than fifty years, he gives some of them to his professional brethren the volume is sure to repay perusal. Mr. Prichard is a veritable link with the past; one of his first teachers was a surgeon who was appointed to the Bristol Infirmary a hundred years ago. His student career commenced in Bristol in 1834, and in 1839 he became a pupil of Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Lawrence, the famous surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, of whom, as well as of several other English and continental celebrities, he gives many entertaining anecdotes.

Myxœdema and the Thyroid Gland. By JOHN D. GIMLETTE, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1895.—Myxœdema, though a comparatively rare disease, is one of exceeding interest both for physiologists and practising physicians, especially those of our own country, for English medical science is entitled to almost all the credit of its recognition as a definite morbid state, the elucidation of its pathology, and the discovery of the proper treatment. As far back as 1859 Professor Schiff pointed out that the thyroid gland had functions useful to carnivorous animals. In 1873 the late Sir William Gull first called attention to myxœdema by bringing five cases before the Clinical Society of London, and in 1878 Dr. W. M. Ord described a further series of cases and proposed the designation myxœdema, a term which has secured universal acceptance. In April, 1881, Dr. George Murray initiated the treatment by subcutaneous injection of thyroid extract, and the success which he obtained soon opened the way to the use of thyroid preparations administered by the mouth. Mr. Gimlette's book can be recommended as a full and well-arranged exposition of our present knowledge of the subject; in particular, his chapters on the history, symptomatology, and treatment of the disease have the merit of being practical and explicit. Since its publication Mr. Victor Horsley has made practical investigation into the functions of the thyroid gland in herbivorous animals, and gave a *résumé* of his results to the Medical Society of London at the last meeting of that body.

New Inventions.

A SIMPLE STERILISER FOR SMALL INSTRUMENTS.

MESSRS. ARNOLD AND SONS have made for me a little apparatus for sterilising small instruments which is simple, portable, and efficient. I designed it for sterilising my trocars, described in THE LANCET of April 13th, 1895, but it

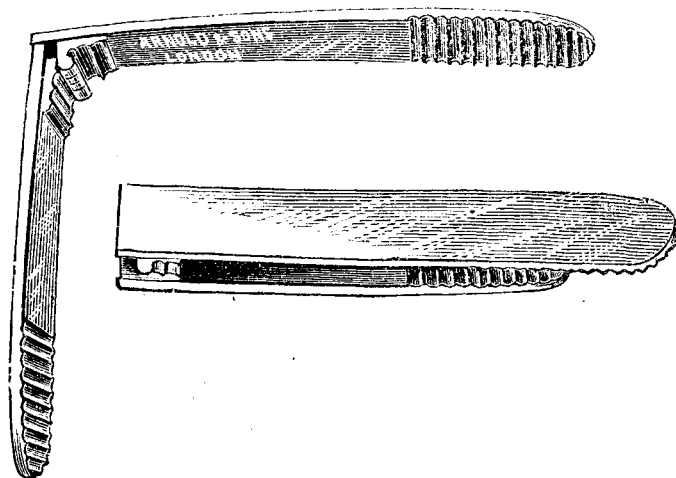


will do for any instrument not larger than artery forceps, and can easily be made larger if desired. It is merely a large test-tube of polished white metal fitted with a rubber cap, the cap having an oblique slit in it to allow the escape of steam and to direct it away from the operator. The advantages of this over an ordinary test-tube are: 1. It is larger and much more durable; it also heats more rapidly. 2. It constitutes a steam chamber; hence the instruments need not be covered by water; four drachms are ample for five minutes' boiling. 3. The water does not bump out even when boiled fairly briskly, because it is in small quantity and checked by the cap. 4. After boiling the instruments can be left in it for a time, or carried about, without risk

of contamination, though plain water is used. I do not find the opacity of the tube to be any real drawback. The upper end is gilt to protect it from the rubber. A simple and efficient holder consisting of a strip of carpet felt is carried in the tube; it should be used double, as shown. The tubes are sent out in small leather-covered cases such as are used for urinometers.

NEW TONGUE DEPRESSOR.

Messrs. Arnold and Sons have also made for me a modification of the ordinary bivalve tongue depressor which, I think, is an improvement upon the latter. The form is shown in the figure. It is longer, straighter, narrower, and stronger than usual; it opens beyond, instead of less than, a right angle, and shuts flat for the pocket. Being made of



polished white metal it will not wear yellow. Only one size is made, which does equally well for a baby or an adult. It is made either smooth or rough (see illustration) as may be preferred. I find this pattern much more convenient and effective than any other I have tried, and the same opinion has been expressed by others of more experience.

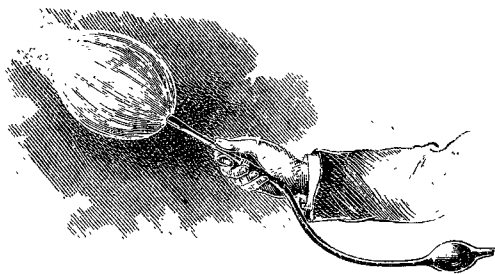
London Fever Hospital.

GEORGE C. GARRATT.

THE BALL NOZZLE SYRINGE AND ENEMA.

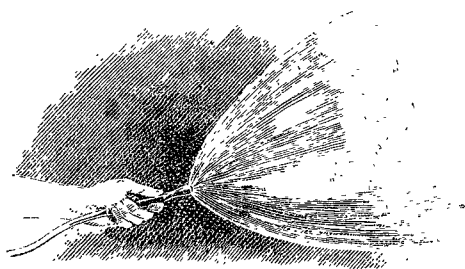
THE ball nozzle fire hose, the action of which was referred to as a scientific paradox, was introduced in America a short while ago. The end of the nozzle of the hose was made to terminate in a bell-shaped mouth in which was placed a ball, and on the water being turned on the ball, instead of being ejected, remained in situ, and the water issued forth in the form of an inverted cone. While the public were being entertained by learned explanations of the paradoxical phenomenon presented the manufacturers were practically experimenting with their invention, and applying it to syringes, enemas, and such-like instruments, with the result that an instrument

FIG. 1.



has been produced which is likely to prove of great advantage where thorough irrigation of a cavity is required. One advantage claimed for the invention is that while reaching every part of the cavity to which it is applied by reason of the way in which the liquid spreads out the force of the water is broken and there is consequently less likelihood of tender wounds being unduly irritated. On allowing the spray to touch the surface of the cuticle of the hand the sensation produced is that of lightly drawing a piece of velvet across it. Should a strong current be required it can of course be obtained by increasing the pressure of the water. As the illustration (Fig. 1) shows the water issues from the nozzle of the syringe in an ovoid form, but as applied to a

FIG. 2.



bath spray the water takes the cup or cone shaped form (Fig. 2) as in the fire hose. A peculiarity of this form of nozzle is that after the water has issued for some distance it breaks into multitudinous drops resembling rain and thus forms a convenient way of taking a shower bath. An objection to the ball nozzle syringe, but one that may be easily remedied by the manufacturers, is the introduction of metal into the interior of the nozzle. The address of the English company is the British-American Ball Nozzle Company, 52, Oxford-street, London, W.

A NEW ELECTRIC HÆMOSTAT.

At the last meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch of the British Medical Association Mr. Lawson Tait read a paper on his new method of dealing with the broad ligament pedicle by means of an electric current. The principle involved is the coagulation under pressure of the albuminous elements of the tissues at a temperature between 180° and 190° F., the temperature being exactly regulated by means of the known resistance of a given quantity of platinum wire enclosed in a box of non-conducting material and under the influence of a current accurately controlled by a rheostat or one of Lord Kelvin's balances. Complete consolidation of a sufficient length of pedicle can be secured in six minutes, this being

effected whilst the toilet of the peritoneum is being carried out and the stitches inserted. No ligatures are required, and the same principle is being adapted for arrest of oozing from adhesions and for dealing with the uterine connexions in complete removal of the organ. Doubtless the new hæmostat will find many other fields for its application. It is being made by Messrs. Philip Harris and Co., but some weeks must elapse, we are informed, before it is ready for the market.

NEW PORTABLE ASEPTIC VAGINAL IRRIGATOR.

WE have received from Messrs. Salt and Son, of 69, Corporation-street, Birmingham, a new form of irrigator

FIG. 1.

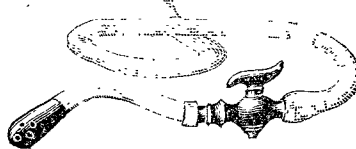
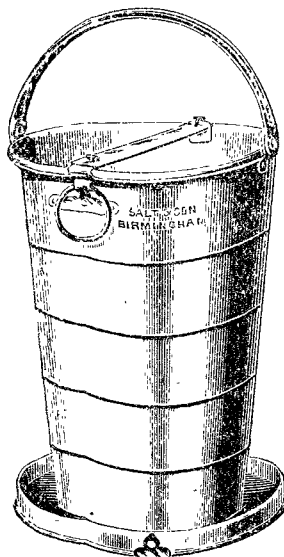
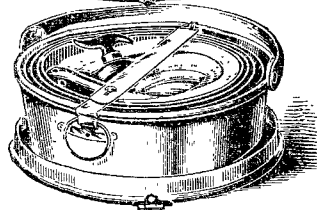


FIG. 2.



made by them at the instance of Mr. W. Edelsten Bracey, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., which would appear likely to be of great value to obstetricians and surgeons. An irrigator is often very desirable at times when its place has to be taken by other means owing to the inconvenience of carrying about a large receptacle for fluid with tubes and taps. The irrigator made for Mr. Bracey consists of five deep rings so accurately fitted to one another as to be water-tight when pulled out and filled with fluid. When open for use its capacity is two and a half pints. When closed the tube is unscrewed from the bottom of the douche and coiled round inside, and the whole is covered by a metal cap fixing by a catch to the projecting floor of the instrument. The size of the irrigator when closed is 2½ in. high and 5 in. in diameter. Almost any antiseptic fluid can be used in it, and it admits of being perfectly cleaned by boiling the whole instrument. Its portability renders it an obvious advantage for operations in private houses. It can conveniently be carried in a midwifery bag, and does not crack or dry or admit air into the uterus as an ordinary indiarubber syringe may do. The cost is but little more than that of one of the usual construction, and from the above-mentioned advantages it appears to be a welcome addition to the obstetrician's equipment.

INTER-HOSPITAL FOOTBALL.—In the final tie, played on Wednesday last at Richmond, for the Hospitals Challenge Cup (Rugby Union rules) St. Thomas's beat St. George's by three tries (nine points) to a goal (five points).—At Leyton, on the same day, St. Bartholomew's beat St. Mary's in the final tie for the Hospitals' Association Cup by three goals to one.

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES TO THE STUDENTS OF THE BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—At the annual meeting of the Bristol General Hospital, which was recently held, the secretary stated that the following prizes and scholarships had been awarded to students at that hospital:—the Clarke Surgical Scholarship of £15 and the Sanders Scholarship of £22 10s. were awarded to Mr. H. J. Bodman. The Lady Haberfield prizes of £14 8s. each to Mr. R. G. Johnson and Mr. A. Coleridge. The Martyn Memorial Pathological Scholarships as follows: Mr. J. H. Bodman, £5; Mr. G. B. Price, £5; Mr. W. Smith, £5; and Mr. F. Anthony, £4. The Committee's Gold Medal was gained by Mr. J. H. Bodman and the Silver Medal by Mr. W. M. Willis.