

and trustworthy guide, taking care, as he says, to err rather on the side of caution than otherwise.

#### LIBRARY TABLE.

*The Great Eastern Railway Company's Tourist Guide to the Continent* is a useful little book published at the low price of sixpence. It contains a clearly printed map of West Central Europe and the South of Scandinavia, with railway routes from Harwich *viâ* the Hook of Holland. Interesting information is given about Holland, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland. The first three countries are eminently places in which to take a holiday; but Switzerland is spoiled, the hunting-ground of the cheap tripper, the Salvation Army, and the ingenious gentlemen who combine coöperative educational tours at so much per head with instructions by leading ministers and talk about reunion. Belgium, Holland, and the Ardennes are still unspotted, and the Harwich route is an easy and comfortable way to get there.

*A Guide to the Income-tax Law and Practice, with Illustrative Cases of Returns, Accounts on Appeal, Repayment Claims, &c.* By JOSEPH AFFLECK, Jun. Manchester: 72, Market-street.—This useful book, the work of an expert, appears at an opportune moment, when the gentlemen with the well-known buff papers are busily engaged depositing them at our doors. Commencing with a brief history of the income-tax, from its introduction to the present day, the author carefully and lucidly explains the many intricacies with which, as such, we are mostly only too familiar, and from which we usually turn in despair of the prospect of ever fathoming. The different schedules are ably treated, and Chapter XIII. will be found most useful to medical men, the author setting out *in extenso* a simple form of profit and loss account, showing how to correctly arrive at the proper amount to be returned for assessment. The chapter on partnerships, too, remarks on the large sums annually overpaid in income-tax through partners' neglect to take advantage of the provision for separate assessment to claim exemption or abatement. Not less valuable is the information as to the method to be adopted for claiming repayment of tax in those cases (and they are legion) where the profits have been over-assessed. Unfortunately, the price of the book is not stated; but it is well worth a few shillings to every man, and may save many pounds to not a few.

*A Book of Detachable Diet Lists, for Albuminuria, Anæmia and Debility, Constipation, Diabetes, Diarrhœa, Dyspepsia, Fevers, Gout or Uric Acid Diathesis, Obesity, Tuberculosis, and a Sick-room Dietary.* Compiled by JEROME B. THOMAS, A.B., M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1895.—The author has drawn up appropriate diet lists for the use of patients suffering from the ten morbid conditions above mentioned, and has supplemented them by enumerations of the various solids and fluids which are to be specially avoided in each case. About a dozen copies of each of these ten lists are bound into a book, each leaf being perforated near the back, so that it can be torn out and left with the patient's nurse or friends. The idea is good, and the lists are copious, but they are in some respects more adapted to American than to English households. The sick-room dietary is also in leaflet form, and gives plain directions for peptonising several articles, and for making various beverages and soups.

*The History of the Pennsylvania Hospital, 1751-1895.* By THOMAS G. MORTON, M.D., Fellow of the College of Physicians, President of the Medical Staff and Senior Surgeon of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and President of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery. Assisted by FRANK WOODBURY, M.D., Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Honorary Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Medico-Chirurgical College.

Philadelphia: *Times* Printing House. 1895.—The province of Pennsylvania was occupied in the seventeenth century by Quaker settlers under energetic and conscientious leaders, and it soon became a prosperous community whose general tendency was highly favourable to well-considered works of philanthropy. The question of providing for the sick poor was seriously taken up in 1751 by Dr. Thomas Bond, who secured the coöperation of Benjamin Franklin and was the principal originator of a combined lunatic asylum and general infirmary, erected in the suburbs of Philadelphia in 1755 and 1756 and designated the Pennsylvania Hospital. The institution continued to fulfil this dual purpose until January, 1841, when all the insane were removed to a new building specially constructed for their accommodation some distance away in West Philadelphia. In the course of the next ten years the old hospital was extensively remodelled, and additions have been made at intervals up to the present day. The history of these various events is related by Dr. Morton and Dr. Woodbury in a graphic and entertaining narrative, which is in every way a model of what such a work should be. The book itself is a handsome volume of 570 pages, and contains 140 illustrations, many of which are full-page size.

## New Inventions.

### AN ASEPTIC SPONGE-HOLDER.

WHEN seeing my colleagues using the ordinary sponge-holders I have always been struck by the difficulty of cleaning them, and also the difficulty of removing either sponge or cotton-wool. In the sponge-holder I have had made all these difficulties are, I think, removed, and any number of sponges or swabs can be used in turn on one sponge-holder. A thread is attached to the sponge or swab, passed through the cup (A), pulled tight, and held in position by a turn round the little catch (B) shown near the handle. The sponge-holder can be used in throat, abdominal, or gynaecological work. It has been made for me in various sizes by Messrs. H. Hilliard and Son, 7, Nicolson-street, Edinburgh.

R. W. FELKIN, M.D.

### A NEW SKIN-GRAFTING KNIFE.

THE accompanying plate is that of a new skin-grafting knife made for me by Messrs. Weiss and Son. It is 8 in. long in the blade, 2 in. wide, and the handle is 5 in. long. The advantages I claim for it are: 1. No force is necessary to cut the graft as the weight of the knife carries it quite easily through the skin. 2. A large graft can be cut as the blade is a long one. 3. The width of the blade allows of the graft being kept flat, with the right side up, and not curled on itself in any way. 4. The blade being flat, the edge or back of the knife can be approximated to any part of the wound, and the graft pulled directly on to the part where it is intended to place it without any fear of the graft rolling up or turning over, as so often happens with the knives used at present for this purpose. The knife has been in use now for some time, and I am much pleased with the way it works.

F. C. WALLIS, M.B., F.R.C.S.

