

New Inventions.

A NEW SPIRAL CATHETER.

THE instrument, of which the accompanying is an illustration, is a new form of catheter which I have designed, and which is manufactured for me by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London. I have tested it in practice and claim for it several advantages, the chief being:—its easy manipulation; that it can, by reason of its spiral end, on being rotated, worm its way corkscrew fashion through a stricture; that when past a constriction it will have obtained purchase sufficient to enable it to contend with further obstruction, instead of being retarded in its passage as is the case when using the old type of instrument; and the danger of employing undue force in its application is diminished, as the pressure it exercises is uniform and gentle. The idea can also be applied to bougies for the gradual dilatation of strictures.

JOHN F. ELLIOTT, L.R.C.S.I., L.R.C.P.I.

NEW RESPIRATOR-INHALER.

I BEG to introduce to the notice of the profession a respirator-inhaler which I have designed, and which presents some features of novelty. Outwardly it has the appearance of a cigar or cigarette (it is made in two forms) fixed in an amber mouthpiece, so that a person with one in his mouth in the street appears to be smoking and so attracts no attention whatever. It thus enables one to carry out dry inhalations in the treatment of respiratory diseases with a constancy unattainable by any of the instruments at present in use, as the great majority of patients are very sensitive about their unsightly appearance. Both ends screw off, so that free access is afforded to the interior for the purpose of changing the absorbent medium. As a dry inhaler, charged with oil of eucalyptus, it affords a protective against contagion. In

FIG. 1.



FIG.



deafness arising from middle-ear catarrh and Eustachian obstruction it can be utilised to introduce volatile drugs into the tympanic cavity by Valsalva's method. Fitting an india-rubber nose-piece, like that on a baby's feeding-bottle, on the amber end converts it into an efficient nasal inhaler for the inhalation of menthol, &c. It is exceedingly light, the cigarette form being little more than 1½ drachms and that of the cigar form rather more than 3 drachms. It is neat and attractive in appearance and very portable. Together with a small vial, with spouted lip for containing the medicament, it can easily be carried in the waistcoat pocket.

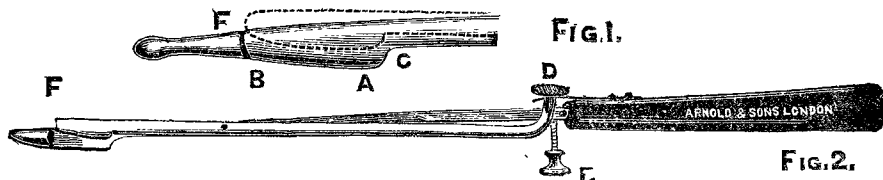
Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, London, E.C., are the manufacturers, and their name is a sufficient guarantee for perfect finish and good workmanship.

WM. G. SUTHERLAND, M.B. Aberd.

Capheaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A URETHRAL KNIFE.

THE accompanying illustrations represent the urethral knife described by me in THE LANCET of June 1st, 1895, now fitted as then suggested with a shield which renders it safe to use in any part of the canal, and through which it can be passed either direct or preceded, if need be, by the dilatation of tapering sounds. I offer it to the profession as being simpler, safer, and more inexpensive than any urethrotome in use. Fig. 1 shows a bulbous-ended variety, and instead of a bulb a long guide might be screwed on if desired. It cuts at A C only, the edge B A being blunt, and intended to slide on the mucous membrane until the obstruction is reached. The following is the mode of use. 1. Decide



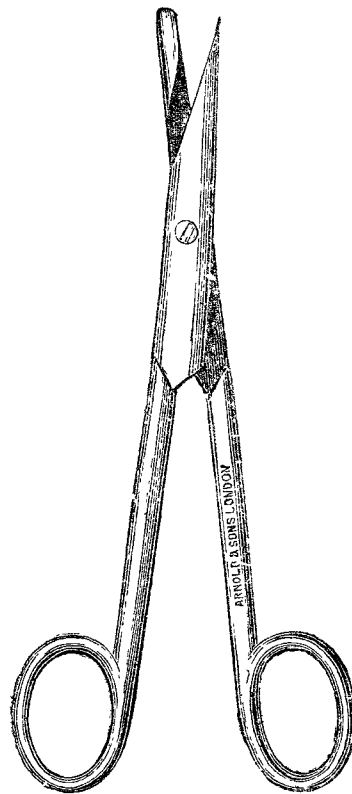
upon the desired restoration calibre of the strictured part; allow of the proper elevation of the shield F by turning the screw E to carry this out (this calibre being instantly determined by a simple means I shall not take up space in describing). 2. Depress the shield again and pass the instrument through the stricture. 3. Press on D to again elevate the shield, and withdraw in this way until the stricture is severed. Perhaps I am justified in claiming four advantages: (a) Normal axis is restored; (b) stricture tissue is cut only; (c) the same is made tense whilst being cut; and (d) preconceived desired calibre is restored and *not exceeded*. Hence the usual disagreeable sequelæ ought to be prevented. I am not aware of any other instrument, however ingenious, which can carry out these desiderata combined or any two of them. The instrument is well made by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London.

Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

JAMES MACMUNN.

NEW FORM OF DRESSING-SCISSORS.

HAVING been six years engaged in hospital work and a dresser at Addenbrooke's and St. Thomas's Hospitals for four years, I have often noticed the unnecessary pain produced, and the great inconvenience experienced, especially by young nurses, by using the ordinary scissors. This



has led me after many years' study to invent a new form of dressing-scissors. They are probe-pointed, and the cutting blade does not extend to the end. They are beautifully made by Messrs. Arnold and Sons. I have shown them to many medical men who much like them.

Taunton.

R. H. WEST.