

extract of malt and extract of coca leaf with port wine. Its alcoholic strength is somewhat below that of ordinary port, as will be seen from the following results, in which are included other items: alcohol, by weight 15·00, by volume 18·48, equal to proof spirit 32·38; extractives and sugar, 16·75 per cent.; mineral matter, 0·35 per cent. The wine possesses a strong malty flavour. It may be regarded as presenting the invigorating qualities of port wine added to the stimulating properties of the coca leaf and the nutritive as well as digestive qualities of an active malt extract.

#### EUCHININ.

(WIDENMANN, BROICHER, AND CO., 33, LIME-STREET, E.C.)

Euchinin is obtained by the action of chloro-carbonic ethyl-ether on quinine. With acids, in which it is freely soluble, it yields a solution exhibiting the fluorescent appearance of quinine in sulphuric acid. It is said to secure the therapeutic effects of quinine without introducing its unpleasant properties. Euchinin is stated not to disturb the appetite or to produce nausea. This new quinine combination is regarded as offering a satisfactory means of introducing quinine into the system when ordinary quinine leads to objectionable effects.

#### KRYOFINE.

(AGENCY: D. MISELL, 65 AND 66, BASINGHALL-STREET, E.C.)

To the already long list of new antipyretics must be added "Kryofine." Like phenacetin, it is a para-phenetidin derivative, and is, in fact, the condensation product derived from heating para-phenetidin with methoxyacetic acid. Phenacetin is aceto-para-phenetidin. "Kryofine" is said to effect a very decided reduction in temperature in febrile conditions, and is stated to be more certain than either antipyrin or phenacetin, and yet to have no unpleasant sequelæ.

#### NEW PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (WARNER AND CO., PHILADELPHIA).

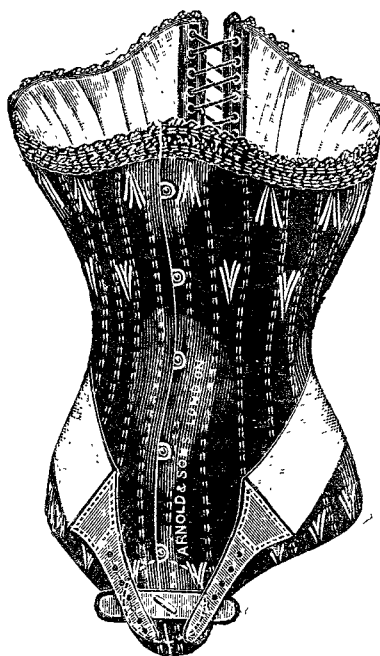
(AGENTS: F. NEWBERRY AND SONS, 1 AND 3, KING EDWARD-STREET, NEWGATE-STREET, E.C.)

Some excellent formulæ are comprised in the following preparations:—Cascara Elixir, from which the inert and griping principles have been removed; Elixir Salicylic Comp., a sweet-tasting preparation containing pure salicylates for administration in acute rheumatism; and Tono Sumbul, a bitter cordial with quinine-like taste, containing chiefly the extractives of sumbul root combined with calisaya, iron, and phosphoric acid. The latter preparation is said to be a useful stimulant and tonic to the nervous system, as in hysteria, delirium, and asthma, and is to be taken in tablespoonful doses before meals; Sumbul, or musk root, is also combined with asafoetida, sulphate of iron, and arsenic, in the convenient form of elegantly-coated pills, and to the pill list also may be added the chalybeate pill of the composition of Bland's pill—that is, containing protosulphate of iron and carbonate of potassium in molecular proportion. We found that on dissolving a pill in water interaction speedily took place, pure protocarbonate of iron resulting. The chalybeate pill is also prepared containing extract of nux vomica  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain; this latter is an excellent combination as a ferruginous tonic. Another useful formula in the form of a pill is that which contains sulphite of soda 1 grain, salicylic acid 1 grain, and nux vomica  $\frac{1}{4}$  grain, which has been prescribed with good results in hyperacidity and disturbed digestive function. Lastly should be mentioned the granular effervescent preparation of hydrobromate of caffeine, which has been found valuable in the relief of nervous or sick headache. All these preparations are admirable specimens of the advances in pharmaceutical preparations.

## New Inventions.

### NEW HERNIA CORSET.

THE use of the truss or belt commonly employed at present in cases of umbilical hernia is attended with inconveniences which it is the object of this appliance to avoid. The instrument which I have designed for the purpose has the further advantage that it acts also as an abdominal bandage or support. It may be easily and readily applied and worn without discomfort. It is employed in combination with a corset, and consists of a spring, preferably constructed of a band or strip of sheet steel, and curved. The centre of the spring is attached to the lower end of one of the corset busks or to the lower end of an auxiliary busk or support such as



is sometimes worn with corsets, with the concavity of the curvature outside. To the outer ends of the spring there are attached studs, buckles, buttons, or the like, to which straps may be secured. The straps which are used each have one end attached to the corset at a point about midway between the front and the back, or nearer to the front or back, and near the lower edge. At about the point of attachment of the spring to the busk a pad is secured so as to come upon the umbilical region when in use. This pad may resemble the pads used with umbilical trusses and will vary in construction to suit the particular hernia for which it is intended. In use, after the corset is in place, with the

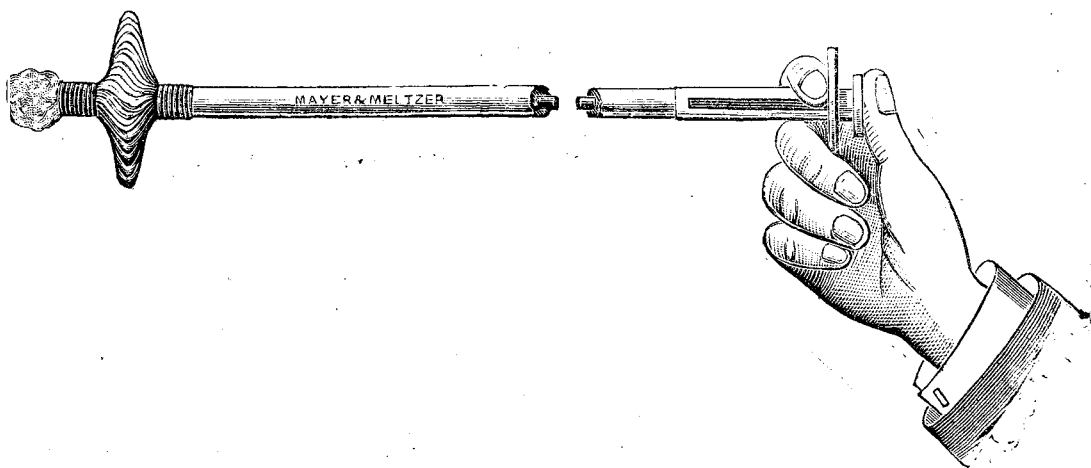
pad over the hernia, the straps from each side of the corset are connected with the ends of the springs and are adjusted until the proper degree of pressure is produced by the consequent flattening of the curvature of the spring. In removing the corset it will be necessary to detach only one of the straps from the spring. Gussets of elastic web may be inserted in the lower edge of the corset, and the straps, or a portion of them, may be made of elastic web or of coiled springs or the like. It can be obtained from Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London.

Blackpool.

F. W. A. STOTT, M.A., M.B. Oxon.

### AN IMPROVED OESOPHAGEAL PROBANG.

THE following modification of the umbrella probang has been devised with the object of obviating the well-known difficulties experienced in the use of the ordinary pattern—viz., the premature opening during insertion, and of opening and withdrawing, which necessitates the use of both hands. The probang is constructed in the usual way so far as the



cristles, catheter, &c., are concerned, but the end which is held by the operator is so arranged that the whalebone does not protrude, but terminates about an inch from the end of the catheter, and is fixed to a disc by a pin which passes through lateral slits in the catheter. When inserting the probang it is held by the end beyond the disc and so prevented from opening; it is then opened and withdrawn by pressing on the end with the thumb, as shown in the illustration. By this means one hand is free to steady the patient's head or to hold a tongue spatula or gag. Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, of Great Portland-street, are the makers. King's College Hospital, London. C. J. MAYHAW.

## THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

### THE ACTION OF THE PROFESSION AT GREAT YARMOUTH.

At a recent meeting of the Great Yarmouth District Committee of the Incorporated Medical Practitioners' Association it was decided to send a memorial to every licensing body in the United Kingdom calling attention to the evils and abuses at present existing in connexion with the administration of many clubs and medical aid societies, and if possible to procure an expression of opinion from the licensing bodies, on the conduct of those of their graduates or diplomates who, by holding appointments under such clubs or societies, aid, abet, and perpetuate the abuses and evils which exist in connexion therewith.

We publish this memorial below, thus bringing the matter prominently before the profession and to the cognisance of other local societies of medical practitioners, which may thus be led to coöperation and possibly to adoption of similar measures calculated to bring forcibly to the notice of the licensing and governing bodies the abuses now obtaining in connexion with medical aid societies, clubs, and hospitals.

TO THE { SENATE } OF THE.....  
COUNCIL }

We, the undersigned—being, with one exception, all the registered medical men engaged in private practice in Great Yarmouth—beg leave to bring the following facts under the notice of your { Senate } { Council } as the governing body of one of the corporations entitled under the Medical Acts to grant { degrees } { diplomas } qualifying their holders to practise medicine, surgery, and midwifery in the United Kingdom:—

1. In Great Yarmouth, as in other districts of the United Kingdom, certain grave abuses have grown up of late years in connexion with the systems of "Medical Aid" for the working classes organised by the friendly societies and by certain industrial life assurance companies, and other lay associations.

The principal abuses referred to are:—

- (a) The admission of persons not needing such assistance to medical benefits intended primarily for the relief of the poorer classes.
  - (b) The admission of women and children to these benefits at entirely inadequate rates of payment for the medical officer.
  - (c) Specially in the case of industrial assurance and similar societies a system of indiscriminate canvassing whereby the private patients of other medical men are solicited—directly for the company, indirectly for its medical officer.
  - (d) The conduct of medical practice by lay organisations purely as a commercial speculation, this being most flagrant where, as in some cases, the medical officer receives a fixed salary; and beyond this amount the fees accruing from his work are appropriated as the profits of his non-medical employers.
2. For the purpose of checking these and similar abuses all but one of the medical practitioners residing in Great Yarmouth combined, and as one result of their association a joint request was made to the friendly societies for a conference with a view to an amicable adjustment of the matters in question, but with few exceptions the friendly societies absolutely refused this request, dismissed their medical officers, and proceeded to form a medical institute in the constitution of which all the above abuses are maintained and even increased.
3. The posts of medical officers to this institute were advertised in the lay press, and as a result, notwithstanding the condemnation of such methods of practice by the medical journals and by the general voice of the profession, and in spite also of the fact that those accepting these appointments must knowingly, wilfully, and openly assume the position of assisting a certain section of the public to defeat the local medical men in a matter involving the vital interests of the profession, qualified medical men were, we regret to say, found willing to take these posts.
4. One of our members had previously acted as the medical officer of an industrial assurance company offering "medical aid" as an attraction to its insurers, paying its medical officer a fixed salary, and canvassing for patients from door to door. This office he has resigned, but in the absence of any declaration as to these appointments by the General Medical Council, or by the universities and colleges granting medical qualifications, the company has, we believe, easily found a substitute.
5. Such facts as we have recited can be quite paralleled in the experience of other towns and districts of the United Kingdom, and appear

to us to call for the careful attention of the various governing bodies entrusted with the granting of medical qualifications and with the control of those qualified.

The dignity and independence which are essential to the adequate discharge by medical men of their duties to the public are gravely imperilled by these abuses. In particular (a) canvassing by lay bodies on behalf of medical men employed by them is plainly contrary to the first principles underlying proper professional relations, and appointments depending on such canvassing ought not to be permitted to be held by registered medical practitioners; (b) it is impossible for a medical man, acting under the control and direction, and entirely subservient to the pecuniary interests of a purely trading company which traffics in medical attendance, to satisfactorily perform the duties of a medical practitioner; whilst (c) the unchecked extension of the club system to all classes of society threatens a general conversion of medical practice from the basis of private relation to that of public contract, a conversion which we think the medical profession should resist with all its strength not more in its own interest than in that of the public.

We therefore beg leave to submit the following questions to the consideration of your { Senate } { Council } :—

- (a) Is the holding of appointments such as are herein described compatible with the conditions under which your { degree } { diploma } is granted and held?
- (b) If the holding of such appointments by your { graduates } { diplomates } does not contravene the existing regulations, does not your { Senate } { Council } consider that, in the interests of the medical profession and of the public, by-laws forbidding such practice should be adopted?
- (c) Is not your { Senate } { Council } of opinion that for a medical man to hold such appointments should be declared by the General Medical Council to be conduct infamous in a professional respect, and if so, will your { Senate } { Council } instruct its representative on the General Medical Council to support such a declaration?

(Signed)

HENRY BLAKE, M.B. Lond.	RAYMOND H. SHAW, M.S., M.B. Durh.
THOMAS LETTIS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.	JOHN BENJ. NICHOLSON VICKERS, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.
A. C. MAYO, M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.S.A.	J. SMITH WHITAKER, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.
A. H. MEADOWS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.	R. WRIGLEY, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.
THOS. HY. MOXON, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.	W. E. WYLLYS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin.
ALBAN H. MOXON, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A.	WM. WYLLYS, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., L.S.A.
CHARLES O'FARRELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin.	LEONARD YOUATT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Vict.
JAMES RYLEY, M.D. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.	

### COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY AND ITS MEDICAL STAFF.

The medical staff of this old—perhaps the oldest—provident dispensary have addressed a memorial to the committee asking for several alterations in the rules. One was for the fixing of a wage limit; another was to have a rule cancelled which requires the appointment of a new medical officer when the aggregate salaries of the staff equal an average of £350 each; another to allow all the members of the staff to sit on the committee instead of only two; and a fourth to raise the subscription for children where a concession for large families is now allowed. These are all most reasonable propositions; certainly the first and the last two. Yet the committee have declined to agree to them, except to a slight rise in children's subscriptions. The memorial has been twice presented, and the requests have been twice refused. The staff owe it to themselves and the profession to be firm in demanding compliance with such just claims. In doing so they should have the support of the profession of the town and neighbourhood. Without this they could scarcely be expected to be firm. According to the *Birmingham Mail* the committee are not in a conciliatory frame of mind, and are prepared to engage a medical staff exclusively for the dispensary, as is being done at Yarmouth and other towns. Such high-handed disregard of the just claims of the profession would not be possible if the profession were true to itself. Of this the staff must judge for themselves. They are not called on to play into the hands of those who are ever ready to accept offices vacated by others and to reap what they have not sown.

**FOREIGN UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.**—*Lemberg*: Dr. H. Schramm has been recognised as *privat-docent* of Surgery.—*Prague (Bohemian University)*: Dr. V. Slavik has been recognised as *privat-docent* of Forensic Medicine.—*Utrecht*: Dr. Zwaardenmarker has been appointed to the chair of Physiology in succession to Professor William Engelmann, who goes to Berlin.