

His companion telegraphs his symptoms to "the Government medical man twelve hundred miles away and receives the astounding answer, 'Typhoid in a serious form.'" Were we to hazard a diagnosis we should say pneumonia, but a little later on we read that he had a crisis on the twenty-first day and was slumbering like a little child. They always do in fiction; but it is hard that such a well-marked crisis should have occurred in so desolate a region as the story indicates, for such a thing in typhoid fever is rare to a degree.

Pearson's Magazine has an interesting article with facsimiles on the Handwriting of Mad People, written by that expert in handwriting, J. Holt Schooling. Perhaps the article does not add much to our knowledge of psychology, but it does show that mental instability, even when not caused by poisons that act on the muscles as well as the nervous system, does cause certain peculiar changes in the performance of the finer manual acts.

New Inventions.

A SPLINT FOR THE TREATMENT OF FLEXED JOINTS.

A SPLINT arranged in the following manner I have found very useful, and producing most satisfactory results in the

treatment of contraction of tendons. For a foundation an ordinary straight splint is used, and to one extremity of this a second piece (jointed near the centre) is attached by means of a hinge. This secondary splint may, if it is found more suitable, be made of any soft metal—e.g., lead. The second splint is bandaged firmly to the concave side of the affected part and a tourniquet is then applied round *both* splints over the point of the greatest convexity. The screw of the tourniquet is tightened by one or two turns daily, as the case may require, until the second splint comes to lie flat upon the first. The joint will then be found in the course of a few days, to be perfectly straight and with no tendency to recontraction; that is, of course, unless the contraction is caused by the loss of continuity of an opposing tendon. Instead of a tourniquet an ordinary elastic bandage may be used, the tension with which it is applied being increased daily. An ordinary straight splint is worn for a week or two after the flexion has been reduced. The splint may be adapted to joints other than the knee—e.g., the elbow and phalangeal joints. The splints are made according to

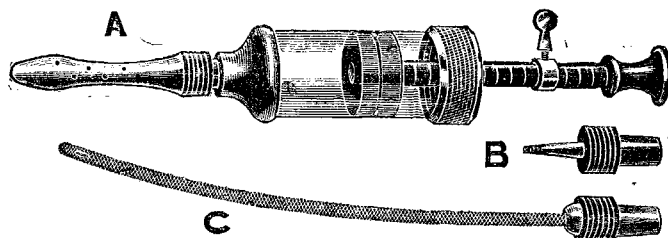
measurements by Messrs. Down Bros., 5 and 7, St. Thomas's-street, Borough, Haverfordwest.

CHAS. B. SAVORY, M.D. Edin.

ointment introducer.

THE instruments in use for the purpose of introducing ointment into the rectum are so far from satisfactory to me that I have designed the one shown in the illustration (Fig. A), which I find fulfils its purpose fairly well. It is made for me by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson of Leeds and possesses the following advantages:—Patients can easily use it for themselves; there is no fear of injuring the

anus or the rectum in the introduction; the dose can be regulated; it is easy to fill; when filled it contains a number of doses ready for immediate use. I have added a uterine tube (Fig. C) and also a nozzle (Fig. B) that will fit an ordinary catheter. These are to be had separately and will



recommend themselves to the surgeon. The syringe with uterine tube attached can be used as a suction syringe for the removal of secretion from the cervix uteri prior to medication.

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THE SOCRATES AUTOMATIC DISINFECTOR.

THIS apparatus consists of the simplest possible arrangement for the diffusion of a definite quantity of permanganate of potash in the water of the flushing cistern. It consists merely of a small tin canister containing crystals of permanganate. This container is to be hung in the flush cistern by a wire or other convenient means of attachment so that the level of the water of the cistern when full is just above the top of the disinfecter. The appliance then acts automatically. In an experiment we made we found that as the water in the cistern is drawn off so a definite quantity of strong solution of permanganate is syphoned out of the container. It is a very simple and ingenious appliance and works well. It should be added, however, that a solution of permanganate can have but little effect upon crude sewage, although the presence of a solution of permanganate in the pan of a closet after the contents have been removed cannot be without distinct sanitary advantage. The invention is the property of the Automatic Disinfecter Co., 5, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, W.C.

A NEW TEAT FOR INFANT FEEDING.

AT my suggestion Messrs. Weiss and Son of Oxford-street, London, and King-street, Manchester, have made a feeding-bottle teat of a new pattern which is extremely useful for the rearing of infants; it is also inexpensive, and I hope that it will displace the commonly employed bottle with long tube, which is the cause of so much illness in young children. Its advantages are (1) that it may be affixed to an ordinary dispensing bottle (six-ounce or eight-ounce by preference), and the absolute daily quantity of milk consumed may thus be easily regulated; (2) that it is easily cleaned and can be turned inside out for that purpose; (3) that it necessitates due observance and care of the child whilst being fed; and (4) that it is portable and unbreakable. If there is a good demand its price will not exceed 1d. or 1½d. The teat is made of black indiarubber and is two and three-quarter inches long. The part which is held in the child's mouth is of the usual shape, but the base has an internal diameter of three-quarters of an inch, so that it will easily fit the class of bottle for which it is designed.

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PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE MID-SUSSEX WATERWORKS.—Consent has been applied for by the Cuckfield (Sussex) rural district council to purchase the concern of the Mid-Sussex Waterworks Company. The district under the council has a population of 12,665 in six parishes, including Haywards Heath and Cuckfield rural. The petitioners pleaded that the company had not carried out the works of supply provided in the Act of Parliament, and some of the parishes being without a supply it was asked that permission should be given to purchase the works under section 91 of the Act, an offer of the council having been declined. Opposition was lodged on behalf of the company, the chairman (Mr. Robus) saying that they had no wish to sell, but would undertake to consider a fair reasonable offer if one was forthcoming.