

issue of 5000 copies has been prepared; in this issue a misprint detected last year is corrected.

In pursuance of the power delegated to the committee by the Council last May, further communications on the subject of glycerine and sugar were made to the Home Secretary's Committee and other authorities. It appeared to be necessary in the national interest that immediate steps should be taken to discourage the use of these substances in pharmacy, and the committee agreed unanimously to the temporary withdrawal from the Pharmacopœia of the official directions for their use in the compounding of certain preparations. The proper notices for the alteration and amendment of the British Pharmacopœia, 1914, were accordingly published on behalf of the Council in the *Gazettes* of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, on July 27th, 1917, and are now operative. A leaflet setting forth the terms of the *Gazette* notice has been inserted in each copy of the new issue of the Pharmacopœia.

The British Medical Association has forwarded a resolution passed by its annual Representative Meeting in July, 1917, to the effect that, in the opinion of the Association, the general use of the metric system in the teaching of dispensing, prescribing, and treatment would be beneficial to the scientific interests of the medical profession. The Pharmacopœia Committee desire to express their concurrence with this opinion.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has published a series of unofficial formulæ for certain preparations which have hitherto contained glycerine or sugar. These may usefully be adopted by prescribers in place of the formulæ that have been temporarily withdrawn. It is desirable that uniformity should, as far as possible, be preserved in the compounding of medicines which may still be ordered or dispensed under the names that were formerly official. The action of the Pharmaceutical Society in the present emergency is thus timely and useful.

Dental Education.

Mr. TOMES submitted a report from the Dental Education and Examination Committee. The committee had drawn up rules and recommendations as to the course of study in accord with the conclusions provisionally arrived at by the Council in 1916. This report was still before the Council, and it was for the Council to decide whether its consideration should be proceeded with, or, in view of the appointment of a departmental committee on the Dentists Act, should be again postponed, a course which the Dental Education Committee thought might be desirable.

In reference to this report, the University of Manchester and the University of Liverpool had reaffirmed their opinion that the minimum period for the study of mechanical dentistry should be 2000 hours at a recognised school, or 2500 hours with a registered dentist. The University of Manchester was further of opinion that private pupilage should be abolished. The University of Bristol had given a general approval to the report.

The report was adopted.

Public Health Diplomas.

Sir J. W. MOORE, in submitting the report of the Public Health Committee, stated that the committee had had before it the question of recognition of work carried out in connexion with the Army in the field in lieu of certain parts of the courses of study prescribed for the diploma in Public Health. Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. O. Beveridge, the Assistant Director for Medical Services (Sanitation) with the Expeditionary Force in France, had attended and given the committee information as to the conditions existing in the British Armies in the field which would justify temporary modifications in the rules and regulations for the diploma in Public Health. The committee had decided to suggest the adoption of certain temporary modifications in the existing rules and regulations in the case of medical officers of the Expeditionary Forces.

On the motion of Sir J. W. MOORE the following recommendation was adopted:—

Additional Note to Rule 2.—Alternative Arrangements for British Armies in the Field. That the laboratory experience at a Base Hygiene Laboratory, when and so far as approved by the General Medical Council, shall count towards the four months' laboratory course prescribed by the Council; and the laboratory experience acquired by medical officers on the staff of hospitals for infectious diseases shall count for such part of the laboratory course for the Diploma in Public Health as the A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) may recommend, and the General Medical Council on consideration may approve.

Another recommendation was adopted defining the class of officers who must be in charge of laboratories in which the course is taken under the alternative arrangement.

Medical Certificates.

Sir A. NEWSHOLME said that it was well known to some members of the Council that the national machinery of recruiting was being very seriously impeded by the unsatisfactory medical certificates received. Further publicity, he said, should be given to the remarks of the President on this subject. He should have liked if they could be distributed to every practitioner in the country, who should be informed that all certificates as to medical conditions should, whenever possible, be based on personal observation, and where that was not possible the certificate should embody a statement to that effect. This suggestion might be well communicated to the Medical Advisory Board in the Ministry of National Service with a view to consideration by them to see if any such steps could be taken.

Dr. NORMAN MOORE thought that the vast majority of the medical profession knew quite well that they ought to tell the truth. It was nothing more than that.

Sir A. NEWSHOLME remarked that some medical men did not appreciate the difference between the facts which came to them by personal knowledge and statements made to them. That fact needed to be brought home to a small minority.

The PRESIDENT said that the question was whether in the circumstances of the Ministry of National Service, where a large number of certificates were required from medical practitioners, it might not indicate to practitioners the nature of the certificates which alone would be accepted and be helpful for the purpose for which they were given. If the Ministry thought it desirable it would probably issue an intimation. It was suggested that the Council should communicate to the Ministry its warning notice and the passage from his speech. That would be done as a matter of communication.

This concluded the business of the session, and the Council rose, to reassemble in May.

New Inventions.

DOUBLE CINCH BINDER.

Mrs. Morison Ltd., of 47, South Molton-street, Bond-street, W., has made a double cinch binder with metal

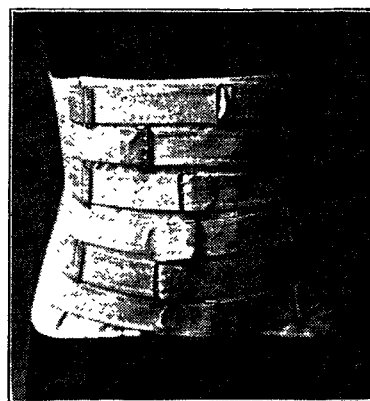


plate for a patient of mine with a ventral hernia following cholecystectomy. The hernia was the size and shape of a half coconut. The patient, who was a big man aged 58, with a circumference of 42 inches, can now shoot and do a good deal of farm work. Without the binder he could do practically nothing, and had many dyspeptic symptoms. The binder is well fitted at back and sides with bone stays, and buckles from alter-

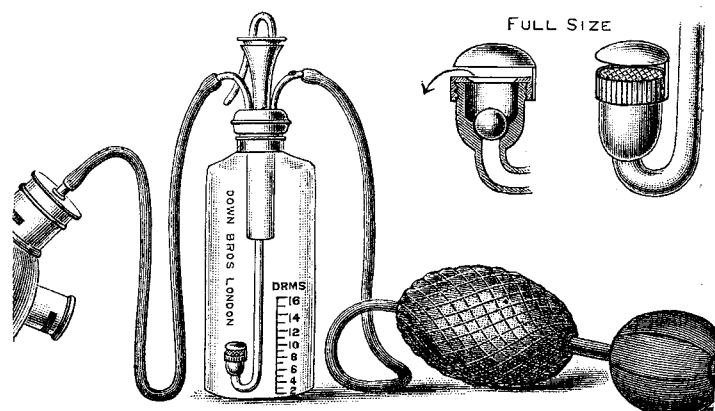
nate sides like a many-tailed bandage, so that great pressure is exerted on the hernia itself, without the binder being too tight. Moreover, the appliance is not cumbersome and is suitable for day or night wear.

Star Hill, Rochester.

CLEMENT WHITE, M.D. Camb.

A MODIFICATION OF THE JUNKER INHALER.

It is well known that accidents have at times occurred when using the Junker inhaler through the bellows having been by mistake attached to the outlet instead of the inlet tube, and the contents of the bottle so expelled. I have had made a modification of the inhaler which renders the



accident impossible. As is shown in the illustration, it consists of a ball valve which is attached to the end of the inlet tube inside the bottle. It is simple, cannot get out of order, and quite does away with the danger mentioned.

Messrs. Down Bros. are the makers.

MORRIS RIGBY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
Capt. R.A.M.C.T.; Anaesthetist, Sussex County Hospital;
Anaesthetist, 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton.