

do full justice to the ingenuity as well as simplicity of the plans by which all hospital requirements have been met.

Our Government has been accused of parsimony, but in this instance no charge of that kind can be brought against it. Nothing more could have been done for our troops, and all concerned in the fitting out of the ship deserve the greatest credit for their exertions.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

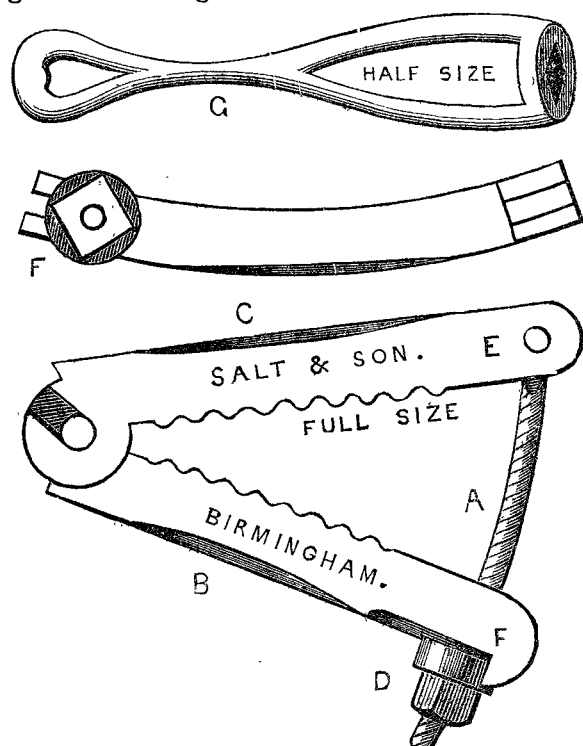
Dec. 2nd, 1873.

F. R. S.

OVARİOTOMY CLAMP.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I send a drawing of a modification of the ordinary ovariectomy clamp, which I venture to bring forward as possessing some advantages.



The two halves are connected by the usual hinge-joint, which allows them to be readily separated for cleaning, and are approximated by a nut (D) acting on a screw (A). The screw has a hinge at E, which allows it to move in and out of the slot (F). A key is used to tighten the nut, but handles are dispensed with.

The clamp has been made for me by Messrs. Salt and Son, of this town.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Birmingham, Nov. 29th, 1873.

WM. THOMAS, F.R.C.S.

A STRANGE STORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dumb Eli's mother must not have been at home with her better-half, otherwise he would not have given utterance to his unnatural resolve, and possibly the mother being a woman of a strong and vindictive turn of mind, in revenge, vowed that in the event of the child being a son, to bring him up so as to instil into his mind a feeling of hatred and dislike towards his father; and, as it is well known that children frequently form great aversion to even their own paternity, I would suggest that the combined influence in the uprearing and training of child by mother and slighted daughters had so possessed its young mind as to bring about the result of "A Strange Story." Fathers are often from home from early morning to late evening, thus giving ample time not only to converse with mother and sisters, but to bring about the wonderful, although by no means mysterious, result.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Nov. 29th, 1873.

COMMON SENSE.

BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

At the last meeting of the Town Council, the report of the Sanitary Committee was presented. It contained a letter from Dr. Hill, recommending the abandonment of many of the present sources of water-supply, and the use of greatly improved sewers and drains, as the best precautions to be taken against the infection of cholera. Four additional inspectors of nuisances were appointed, and Dr. Hill was re-elected medical officer of health, at a salary of £500, and also analyst at £150 per annum.

The death-rate for the last week was 25·7 per 1000, a high rate, considering that there is no special epidemic now prevalent.

A conference of gentlemen representing the charities of the town and district has been held to consider the subject of hospital reform, and a committee has been appointed to prepare a scheme for the establishment of a central organisation for the systematic inquiry into the circumstances of all applicants for relief, except cases of urgency and accidents.

At the last meeting of the Midland Medical Society, Mr. Wilders showed a specimen of cancer of the penis, and mentioned a convenient device for preventing the passage of urine over the cut surface after amputation. Mr. Thomas showed a primary axillary malignant tumour, after the removal of which the enlargement and induration of the mammary gland had subsided. Mr. Bennett May presented a number of fractures from the same patient, exhibiting bony, ligamentous, and retarded union. Mr. Thomas read an account of a mediastinal abscess following otorrhoea and cellulitis of the neck, and which he believed to be due to pus making its way beneath the deep fascia of the neck to the mediastinum. It was punctured with the aspirator near the ensiform cartilage, and then the opening enlarged, with the result of evacuating upwards of sixty ounces of pus, after which the patient rapidly improved.

Dr. B. W. Richardson, F.R.S., has been giving two lectures on the Pioneers of Modern Science, at the Midland Institute. "Stephen Gray" and "Joseph Priestley" were the subjects selected for illustration, and very vividly were the lives and scientific labours of these two early pioneers of science presented to the audience. At the end of the second lecture Dr. Richardson made a spirited appeal to the people of Birmingham to atone for the evil done by their forefathers in burning Priestley's house and in driving him away from Birmingham, and concluded eloquently thus:—"From the ashes of the burned house of Priestley let there arise a temple of science—make it as he would have made it, resplendent, unrivalled in means for scientific research; give to it his immortal name, and depend upon it that his fame, not less immortal, will descend through your sons—aye, and through your daughters too, conferring in the ages to come new lustre on your noble town and new blessings on mankind." The proposal thus sketched out is likely to be realised shortly, through the liberality of one of Birmingham's most worthy citizens, Sir Josiah Mason, to whom the town is already indebted for a princely orphanage. A site close to the Town Hall has already been purchased, and the new college of science will almost immediately be commenced.

The Guest Hospital, Dudley, is to be congratulated on its success. At the second annual meeting the report showed that sixty beds were now available, and that the number of patients and also of donors and subscribers was increasing. Mr. A. Jones was elected surgeon in place of Mr. E. R. Smith.

At the General Hospital, under the care of Dr. B. Foster, there is a remarkably interesting case of chorea in a young man, aged eighteen, which has been treated so far with great success by the daily application of galvanism to the spine. After the second application the patient improved. Other treatment had previously been unsuccessful. Dr. Foster has also under his care a typical case of the third stage of pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis. The boy, now thirteen years of age, is quite unable to stand or move, and remains in any posture in which he is placed. The muscles of the calf, buttock, and thigh were four years ago greatly enlarged, but have now melted down to less than their normal size. The upper extremities are greatly wasted, so

DR. FREDERICK W. BOOTH has been placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Lancaster.