

2. The Comparative Variability of Bones and Muscles, with Remarks on Unity of Type in Variations of the Origin and Insertion of Certain Muscles in Species unconnected by Unity of Descent, by G. E. Dobson, F.R.S. 3. Congenital Malformation of the Trachea of a Horse, by F. Smith. 4. Nature of Ligaments, by J. B. Sutton, and Plate 3. 5. Osteology of Numenius Longirostris, with Notes upon the Skeleton of other American Limicolæ, by R. W. Schofeldt, and Plates 4 and 5. 6. The Anatomy of Acquired Flat-foot, by J. Symington, and Plate 6. 7. New Method of cutting Sections for Microscopical Examination, by James W. Barrett, M.B. 8. New Method of demonstrating Scheiner's Experiment, by James Barrett. 9. Abnormal Disposition of the Colon, by R. Bruce Young. 10. Delineation of Skulls by Composite Photography, by Arthur Thomson, and Plate 7. 11. Repair of Wounds and Fractures in Aged Persons, by Professor Humphry. 12. Case of Abnormal Development of the Coronary Arteries of the Heart, by F. Charlewood Turner, M.D. 13. Abnormal Ureters, by W. Stephenson Richmond.

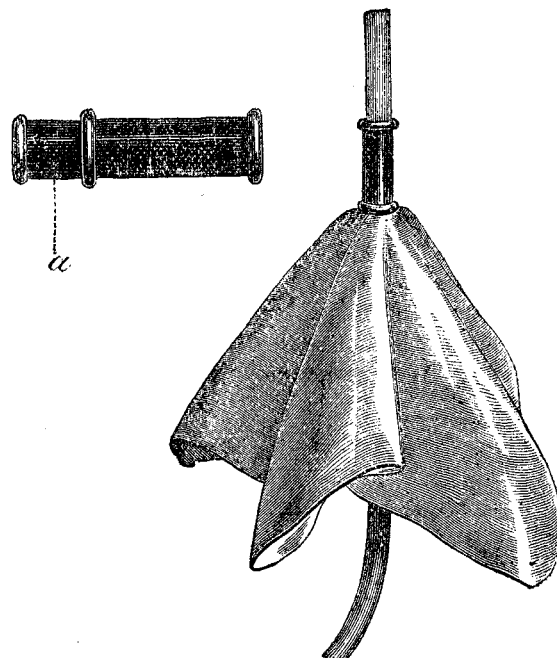
*Essay on the Experiences and Opinions of John Howard on the Preservation and Improvement of the Health of the Inmates of Schools, Prisons, Workhouses, Hospitals, and other Public Institutions, as far as Health is affected by Structural Arrangements relating to Supplies of Air, Water, Drainage, &c.* By R. D. R. SWEETING. Pp. 96. London: Baillière and Co. 1884.—This essay, which gained the Howard Medal of the Statistical Society and a prize of £20, contains, in a condensed form, the reports made by Howard on the sanitary condition of the various public institutions which he visited, at home and abroad, with his recommendations respecting their construction and management. It shows clearly how far ahead he was of the times in which he lived, and to what an extent he anticipated, in his recommendations, the measures which are now held by the best authorities to be essential to the preservation of public health. It brings him before us as a philosopher, a philanthropist, a social reformer, a statistician of no mean order, and an able, clear-headed sanitary pioneer.

## New Inventions.

### APPARATUS FOR REMOVING FALSE MEMBRANE FROM THE TRACHEA.

THE sad death and self-sacrifice of Dr. Rabbeth was clearly owing to the absence, at hand, of some efficient mechanical appliance for extracting the diphtheritic membrane from the trachea. It is now nearly nine years since I first made use of the aspirator for removing from the trachea inflammatory products threatening to cause suffocation, but finding the utility of the aspirator greatly interfered with, owing to the air being drawn into the trachea by the side of the suction tube, and thus destroying the vacuum, I devised the apparatus figured in the accompanying woodcut. It consists of a hollow piece of vulcanite, about an inch long, passed through the centre of a piece of wash-leather, or what is better, a thin piece of Dr. Scott Alison's impermeable lambskin, about six inches square, which is then tied to a groove (a) about a quarter of an inch wide, situated at one end of the piece of vulcanite. The hole through the piece of vulcanite is made a little smaller than the suction tube of the pneumatic aspirator which it surrounds, so that, although the vulcanite can be easily moved along the tubing when the latter is diminished in circumference by stretching, it nevertheless grasps the tubing, when not extended, sufficiently to prevent slipping. Without the piece of vulcanite the wash-leather could not be tied sufficiently tightly to the suction tube to prevent air passing between them and yet allow the position of the wash-leather, as regards its distance from the end of the suction tube, to be readily changed. To apply the apparatus, wet the wash-leather, and as soon as

the suction tube has been inserted into the tracheotomy tube or trachea, as the case may be, spread out the wash-leather over the neck of the patient, to prevent all entrance of air except through the mouth, and then turn the tap of the aspirator. By preventing air from entering the tracheotomy tube from without, the full power of the aspirator is available for extracting whatever substance may be in the trachea; but the suction power must of course be regulated as circumstances require. Although the diphtheritic membrane is rarely carried into the exhausted bottle, it is drawn sufficiently far into the suction tube to allow of its being pulled out of the trachea when the suction tube is withdrawn. I keep in my tracheotomy case a piece of india-



rubber tubing already passed through the vulcanite with wash-leather attached, so that the wetting of the leather and slipping one end of the tubing over the suction nozzle of the aspirator, which is all that has to be done to make it ready for use, is the work of only a few moments. In the absence of an aspirator, a large syringe might be used to create the suction power. As all rubber goods when not in constant use are liable to perish quickly, the tubing should be seen to several times a year. Dr. Scott Alison's impermeable lambskin consists of wash-leather covered on one side with a thin layer of indiarubber. It is sold by Messrs. Ewen, 106, Jermyn-street, W.

Mansfield-street, W.

T. MARK HOVELL.

### ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND.

THE second annual meeting took place at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland last week, presided over by the President of the College. The office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected, but few changes taking place in the various sections. The Council had recommended a presentation of £100 to Mr. Thomson for his services as general secretary, but that gentleman very properly refused to accept it. The proposal last year caused a considerable amount of opposition, and it would have been in better taste if the Council had not sent a recommendation of the kind for the sanction of the Fellows. A resolution of Mr. Swanzy's was adopted, to the effect that it be referred to the General Council, with recommendation that the Academy should endeavour to encourage original research by grants or otherwise, and to report on the subject. The proposal that in future the election of Fellows should be made at general meetings of the Academy, and that all Fellows should the right of voting, was lost by four votes.

THE POLLUTION OF THE LEA.—At a well-attended public meeting held at Hackney on the 28th ult., a resolution declaring that nothing was feasible to secure the purity of the Lea short of an intercepting sewer to carry the sewage of Tottenham, Walthamstow, Leyton, and West Ham, after treatment, to the Thames at Barking, and that the Home Secretary be memorialised on the subject, was carried.