

is offered the Director-Generalship of the Army Medical Department, and accepts it. Again he sets himself to the reform of the medical returns of the army, which had become so notoriously given up to mere questions of pounds, shillings, and pence, as to have excited ridicule amongst all military men. And here he closes the scene of his labours.

A supplementary Chapter, completing the story of his life, shows the same unwearied and unwearable man at work, during the long tenure of his office, collecting reports, returns, statistics of disease, until they swelled to the goodly number of nearly 350 folio volumes. In the spring of 1851 his public work is over; full of honour and of years he retires from his office, having spent no less than fifty-seven years in active public service. He died in London on the 2nd of April, 1858, a few days before the completion of his eighty-eighth year, without pain, and, as it is said, almost without disease.

This book, as interesting as a novel, constitutes a valuable addition to our scanty medical biographies, and deserves and will repay study as the life of one of whom our great military chief worthily wrote, "I consider him one of the most industrious, able, and successful public servants I have ever met with."

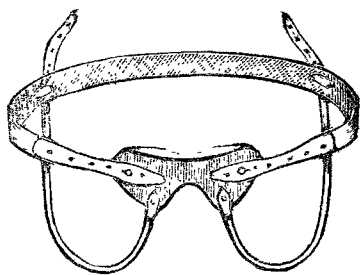
New Inventions

IN AID OF THE

● PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

LINDSEY'S PATENT TRUSS.

THIS truss, recently patented by Mr. Lindsey, of Ludgate-street, is of a novel construction, and appears to possess several important advantages which are likely to recommend it as a more than ordinarily useful and effective appliance. The pad



shown in the diagram is composed of a simple metallic plate, shaped so as to fit with exactness the inguinal region, covering both rings, and padded with an improved material highly elastic and very durable. This is attached to a strong elastic band, to which are appended two thigh-straps, which fasten on the back of the belt, and thus keep the pad in position. The whole is so arranged that any amount of pressure can be applied by the wearer without inconvenience. It is equally efficient in single or double hernia, and, from the absence of steel springs, can be worn with a great amount of personal comfort.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In common with a large number of other Fellows of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, I recently signed a memorial to the Council, requesting them to consider the expediency of carrying out certain measures which were mooted in the course of the discussion of the amalgamation of certain other Societies with the Royal Medical and Chirurgical.

Having for some years given attention to the subject, and as it appears desirable that all questions should be well ventilated during the recess, I propose occasionally to submit certain points for consideration, not without hope that I may conciliate your powerful advocacy in aid of the adoption of some of them. As I have just heard that there is to be a special general meeting on Tuesday next, I will here only advert to the subject

which was, perhaps, the more salient in the recent discussion—I mean the selection and appointment of sections of the Society, from time to time, for the purpose of investigating special inquiries.

Mr. C. Hawkins observed (as I think with great truth and justice) that there were many questions sometimes on which the public had a right to expect information from the profession; and that the communication of such information, as the result of adequate investigation, would be equally advantageous to the public and the profession. As I published, in more forms than one some years since, the very great importance which I attached to this part of our duty, it is needless to say how entirely I concur in these sentiments. In the course of a long experience I hardly recollect any period in which there have not been questions, both in the practice of medicine and surgery, calling for this kind of inquiry.

As mere samples, which are even now desiderata, I may cite, amongst many others—

The nature of any unusual or prevailing epidemic.

The examination of any alleged novelty or improvement.

The action of particular substances as alleged, such as cod-liver oil, &c.

The pathological relations of puerperal fever, peritonitis, and other affections occurring in the practice of midwifery, with quasi-cognate pathological conditions occurring indifferently in either sex.

The best modes of restoring suspended animation from drowning, &c.

The selection of the sections should be made, of course, with great care, and whilst it included some whose practice involved more or less of the subject proposed, should always associate others—physicians or surgeons, as the case might be—who practised the profession generally. I will not, however, intrude more on your space at present, but reserve other points for a more fitting opportunity.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Court-yard, Albany, July, 1861. GEORGE MACILWAIN, F.R.C.S.

THE CHEMICAL EXAMINATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am a candidate at the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the University of London, and I was examined in the following careful manner by experiment. I was taken into a little room, and was told to examine two solutions. Of course, every facility was afforded, as the following statement will show:—1. The reagents were arranged so as to exercise the eyesight—that is to say, acids, alkalies, and salts all mixed up, as if they had been put on the table by a lazy housemaid. 2. The stoppers were tightly jammed in; in one case so tightly that I was obliged to use a bottle off a neighbouring table. 3. "Means for procuring hydrosulphuric acid were provided"—that is to say, a bottle, *smaller than any of the others*, contained lumps of sulphide of iron too large to go into the apparatus. I was expected to use my fingers as pestle and mortar, and hurt them not a little by so doing. 4. No assistant to point out the locality of a test, the only person provided being one apparently ignorant of the names of chemical substances. 5. For the whole of the operations—viz., extracting stoppers, selecting individual bottles from the crowd, breaking HS under difficulties, and testing the solutions, fifteen minutes were allowed.

I certainly did expect to be examined in analysis of solutions, and not in the sorting of bottles against time, as if I were qualifying as a druggist's assistant. Many are in the same situation, and were all candidates bold enough to give their conscientious opinion with regard to the arrangements, you would hear but a variation in one or two particulars of my statement.

By inserting this, Sir, and affording an opportunity for explanation, you will much oblige

Your obedient servant,

July, 1861.

ULTOR.

* * This letter is one of many we have received on the same subject, and all concurring in the same grounds of complaint. It certainly does appear unnecessary to add to the ordinary difficulties of a scientific analysis the complications of disorder and want of proper means which these complaints substantiate. The matter will no doubt undergo investigation by the Senate. The present candidates will hardly be made to suffer for the want of proper arrangements on the part of the Examiners.—

ED. L.