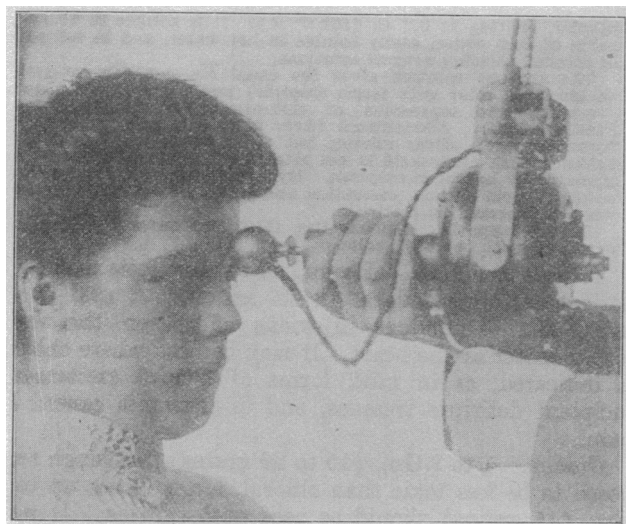


treated the result was more satisfactory as far as the pain was concerned, as it almost all disappeared, and doubtless would have done so completely if the stair-climbing could have been given up.

In a case of chronic rheumatoid arthritis affecting the patient's knees vibration without heat was tried as a check against thermovibrassage. The stiffness was relieved somewhat, but the effect was very transitory and not very marked. With the latter the stiffness, soreness and pain were more relieved than by any other treatment the patient had tried in many years, and the effect lasted much longer than with other treatments. No hope of a cure could be held out, but the patient was most grateful for the relief afforded.

A private patient who had had a spastic paraplegia since he was a child was treated for congestive headaches due to mental overwork. An area three inches square on the back of the neck was treated for five minutes at a time on successive days. The headaches disappeared in a very short time and did not return. The interesting point about this case, however, was an en-



tirely unlooked-for result, which was that the patient found that he could stand up much straighter and control his legs much better after each treatment. At first the effect lasted about twelve hours. Later it lasted longer, and at the present time one treatment a week suffices. At one time he had been under the care of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, who prescribed massage and electricity, and he had also been treated by other prominent men, but the benefit from thermovibrassage is greater and more lasting than from any other previous treatments. It may be noted here that vibration without heat does not produce the same effect at all. So far no opportunity has offered to see whether other similarly-affected patients would be benefited in the same way.

At present, through the courtesy of Dr. Henry S. Upson, professor of neurology in the Medical Department of Western Reserve University, thermovibrassage is being given a thorough trial in the neurologic clinic of the Lakeside Hospital Dispensary. From the outset it is as useless to expect the regeneration of destroyed neurocytes from its use as it is from any other form of treatment, but the indications are that it is going to prove to be at least as valuable as electricity in its different forms and massage in many cases, and in some of decidedly greater value.

With the help of Dr. J. B. Austin, enough experiments have been done to show clearly that the effect is

both constitutional and local, and, as above stated, is different from that of either vibration without heat or *vice versa*. That it is of far greater value than ordinary vibration is borne out by all the clinical and experimental evidence. Many more cases than have been cited have been recorded, but a description of the experimental work and fuller details will be withheld until still more data have been collected.

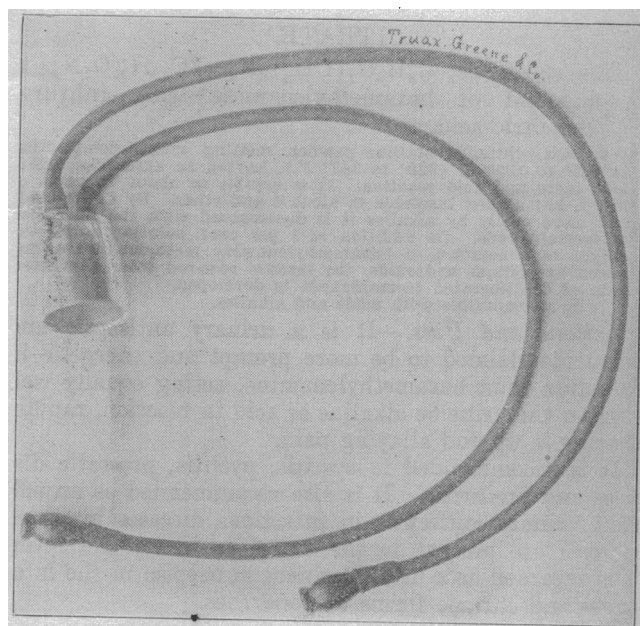
2658 Euclid Avenue.

A NEW STETHOSCOPE.

EDMUND F. WOODS, M.D.

JANESVILLE, WIS.

In presenting to the profession the stethoscope shown here I wish to recommend it for its simplicity, lightness and durability. The bell is made from very hard metal, nickel-plated, and so thick that it shuts out all



outside sounds. It, therefore, conveys the heart and lung sounds better and more clearly than any other instrument I have been able to find, and especially gives the heart sounds without the humming sound so noticeable in other stethoscopes.

TOTAL LUXATION OF THE SPINE.

THOMAS F. RAY, M.D.

DEESON, MISS.

The abstract of Steinmann's article on "Total Luxation of the Spine," in *THE JOURNAL*, June 16, 1906, prompts the following report:

Oct. 19, 1898, I was called to see a negro. October 17 he had attempted to rearrange some bales of cotton loaded on a wagon. In lifting them he placed his head under the bales and lifted with his head and hands. In some way a bale fell on him and crushed him to the earth, whence he was picked up and attended by an irregular practitioner. I found him suffering from a complete bilateral dislocation of the fifth cervical vertebra forward with complete paralysis of all of his limbs and bladder. He could move neither hands nor feet and could not control his urine. His bowels had not moved since the injury. I immediately attempted reduction, without anesthesia, which was accomplished very easily. All the symptoms gradually improved. At the expiration of two years he seemed normal in every way with the exception of a deficient grasp of the left hand. I have not seen him for six years, but his employer writes that he is well.