

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Contemporaneous Portraiture.—Under the title of *Men and Women of the Day*; a *Portrait Gallery of Contemporaneous Portraiture*, Messrs. Richard Bentley and Sons are issuing a series of photographs by Mr. HENRY BARRAUD, the well-known photographer of 263, Oxford Street, whose medical photographs have long held a very high position, and whose portrait groups of the International Medical Congress were a great success. The present issue consists of permanent photographs printed on thick mill-board (any of which can be framed) issued in monthly parts at two shillings and sixpence; each part contains three large panel portraits, so that the annual volume will contain thirty-six panel portraits for thirty shillings, each picture being considerably less than half an ordinary cabinet in price. The portraits in this first part are of political and other public personages. The forthcoming numbers will contain portraits of Sir James Paget, Sir William Gull, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Sir Joseph Lister, and we believe also, at an early date, M. Pasteur and many foreign medical celebrities. Such a book forms a delightful record of our most eminent contemporaries as seen in the life, and the three photographs issued are triumphs of photographic portraiture and of permanent printing.

Calf Lymph Culture and Vaccination. By O. PENFOLD, M.R.C.S. Eng.—This pamphlet appears to be written for non-professional readers. Mr. Penfold has probably not studied the manner in which calf vaccination is carried out in England, or he would know that the eighth day is certainly not the best time to take lymph, as, by that time, it has undergone marked degeneration in its powers of keeping; and, if transmitted from calf to calf, the resulting vesicles, in the course of a few generations, become useless. The addition of any preservative substance to lymph is unnecessary, and strongly to be deprecated; for, if lymph be taken on the fourth or fifth day (ninety-six to one hundred and twenty hours after vaccination), on ivory points, and allowed to dry, or in capillary tubes, and hermetically sealed, it may be used with satisfactory results, the former method of storage being preferable for the vaccination of children. The author prefers calves from eight to twelve months of age; this is, in Europe at any rate, too old, the best age being about four months, the skins being much softer and the animals more easily managed. The case of vaccination with human lymph which is quoted is decidedly not typical of the current vaccination in this country; the lymph was probably taken from a degenerated source. Lastly, we are surprised to find Mr. Penfold upholding the antiquated quarantine system, which has so conspicuously failed whenever tried, except on the very smallest scale. Upon vaccination and revaccination only can a community safely rely for freedom from small-pox.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

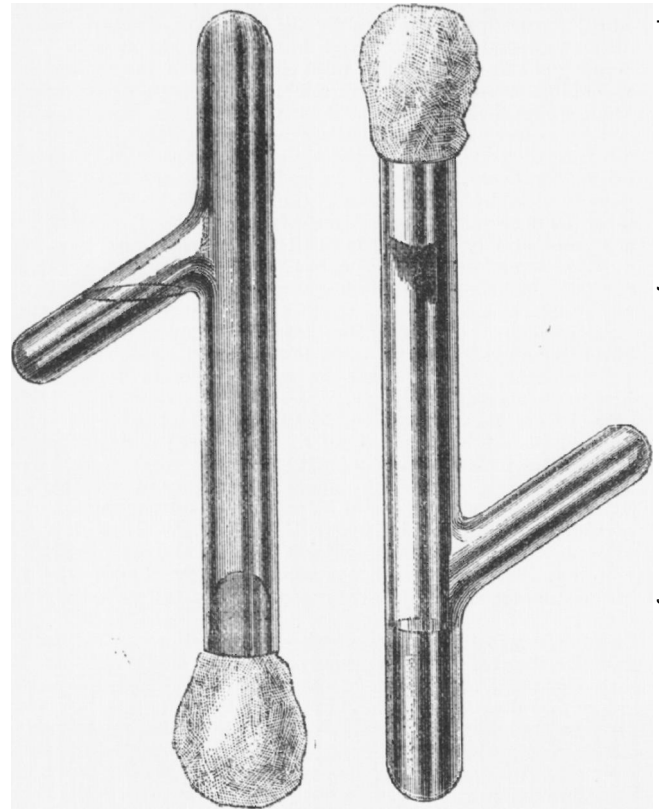
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS,

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

NEW CULTIVATING TUBE.

In the belief that any simple contrivance which is likely to diminish the risk of accidental contamination in the employment of liquid cultivations will be welcomed by bacteriologists, I am induced to send you a drawing and description of a form of apparatus which I have recently made use of. It may be described as an ordinary test-tube with a blind lateral arm about two inches in length. This arm joins the main tube about two inches from its lower end, and forms, with the proximal part of the tube, an angle of about 45°. The tube is plugged with cotton-wool and sterilised. It is then filled for about an inch and a half of its depth with the liquid medium, and sterilised in the usual manner. When the tube is to be inoculated it is slowly inverted, so as to allow its liquid contents to flow into the lateral arm. While the tube is thus inverted, the cotton-wool plug is removed, and the seed material is introduced up to the bottom of the main tube, in precisely the same manner as one inoculates a tube of solid gela-

tine or agar material. The inoculating needle having been withdrawn, the plug is replaced, and the tube returned to what may be called its erect position, the liquid being thus brought into contact with the seed material.



Tube inverted for inoculation.

Tube erect.

The only special precautions to be observed in using the tube are—(1) to use of the liquid medium a volume slightly smaller than the capacity of the lateral arm, and (2) to invert the tube slowly, turning it in a vertical plane towards the lateral arm. By attending to these points one can avoid the risk of part of the contents being poured out of the tube. The tubes necessarily cost a little more than the ordinary test-tubes, but, if made of stout glass, they can be used again and again. There is no difficulty in cleaning the lateral arm by shaking with a small quantity of shot. Edinburgh. J. MCFADYEAN, M.B., C.M.Ed.

GAMBLE'S IMPROVED METHOD OF WARMING AND VENTILATING DWELLING HOUSES, OFFICES, AND THE LIKE.

This is a system of warming and ventilating rooms by means of heated air which has been patented by Mr. J. H. Gamble. It is in principle a modification of Galton's grate and the Manchester school grate, in which fresh air is warmed by circulating round the back of a stove, and is then admitted into the room about a level with the chimney breast. In Mr. Gamble's method the external air is conducted to a compartment surrounding a stove of special construction or an ordinary kitchen range situated in the basement of a house, and then passes up a shaft to be distributed to the upper rooms. The products of combustion of the stove in the basement are carried off by a metal flue which passes up through the warm air shaft, and by this means the waste heat made to contribute to the heating of the fresh air supply. It is claimed by the inventor that rooms thus supplied with warm air will not require open fireplaces, which serve under his method for the admission of warmed air, and are provided with valves for regulating the same. In Mr. Gamble's system means are also provided for carrying away the vitiated air by exhaust shafts, but about these there is nothing special. It is difficult to see how the system could be applied to existing houses without great structural alterations, but for new buildings in course of construction,

especially for workhouses, hospitals, public offices, etc., the system might very probably be effective and cheap in working.

ST. JAMES'S RUM.

It is a well-known fact attested by M. Girard, the official analyst in Paris, and much deplored by French growers, that, owing to the ravages of the oidium a comparatively small part of what is sold as French brandy is the unadulterated produce of the grape. Enormous quantities of cheap rectified potato spirit are imported into France, and re-exported after manipulation as cognac. Such doctored and manipulated spirit, which constitutes a very large proportion of what is now being innocently used in hospitals and sick rooms as old cognac, is made up of this falsified and deleterious material. Under the circumstances it may be well to turn attention to the unadulterated product of our own colonies, and it will not be surprising if the pure, old-fashioned, and well-matured rum of the British colonies should come into more general use where it is desired to prescribe a stimulant. Rum and milk used to be a favourite form of medicinal stimulant and nutritive, and in the navy grog made with rum is we believe at least as popular as cognac, and has the advantage of being cheaper and purer. The "St. James's Rum," of which specimens have been sent us by Messrs. G. W. Christie and Co., 25, Milton Street, Cripplegate, E.C., has an established reputation for age and purity, and we are inclined to think that the considerations to which we have referred should frequently recommend it in place of the artificial compounds which now so largely pass current as French brandy.

AURAL TUBES.

WE have received from Messrs. Creswick, of Great Portland Street, W., a collection of their ear tubes for deafness. They are constructed of thin pasteboard, with ear pieces of tinned iron covered with india-rubber tubing. They are made in various sizes and shapes, and some of them by means of a telescopic arrangement can be drawn out and lengthened when necessary to several feet. They are light and portable, can be used for close or distant conversation, and are entirely free from the confusing roar of the ordinary metal tube. They were originally made from a pattern supplied by Dr. C. J. B. Williams, who speaks of them in his *Memours* in high praise. We can fully endorse his opinion: "The superiority of these pasteboard cones over those of metal lies in their conveying the sound vibrations through their light material by conduction as well as by reflection and in their being more free from the echoes and ringing sounds developed by metals." These tubes possess the further recommendation of cheapness, varying in price from 4s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.

EXTRACTUM COLLINSONIÆ CANADENSIS LIQUIDUM (HOCKIN).

COLLINSONIA CANADENSIS is a perennial herb of the nat. ord. Labiata, growing in North America from South Carolina westward. Although it is not official in the *British or United States Pharmacopœias*, it has acquired some reputation as being of value in affections of the genito-urinary tract. Messrs. Hockin, Wilson, and Co., of Duke Street, Manchester Square, have prepared a liquid extract of such a strength that the dose is half to one fluid drachm, and recommend its employment in cystitis, gonorrhœa, leucorrhœa, and similar affections.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

An ordinary Council Meeting was held on February 9th. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of January 19th were read and confirmed.

The Museum Committee presented an ordinary report.

Mr. J. H. Targett was appointed assistant in the Pathological Department in the Museum.

The Council authorised the architect to proceed with the construction of the new buildings on the Embankment.

The Council elected Mr. C. A. Ballance as Erasmus-Wilson Lecturer.

Mr. SIBLEY moved:—

"That, in view of the increasing complication of the accounts of the College, it is desirable that a Finance Committee be appointed to superintend the accounts and finance of the College, and to report thereon not less than twice in each year to the Council."

The motion was carried.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1888.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1888 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches are requested to forward their remittances to the General Secretary, 429, Strand, London. Post-office orders should be made payable at the West Central District Office, High Holborn.

The British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 1888.

DR. MAPOTHER ON THE DUBLIN SCHOOLS AND THEIR TEACHING.

WHILE the General Medical Council keeps a perennial and expensive watch over the portals of our profession, lest any should enter them who are unfit or remain within them who are unworthy, we are startled from time to time to discover, by chance as it were, how somnolent is the guard it maintains, how careless it is of the interests entrusted to it.

It comes to us, for instance, as a shock, when an ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland assures us that, in the great teaching centre of Dublin, the study of pathology is almost wholly neglected; that of the six or seven medical schools of that city, only two possess pathological museums; that in the case of three of these institutions at least a proper course of pathology is an impossibility; that the Pathological Society, now a section of the Royal Irish Academy of Medicine, throws open its doors in vain to the students of medicine, only 1 per cent. of whom avail themselves of the generous offer of the Society, although it was to this body that Graves looked so long ago as 1843 for the new birth of Irish pathology, when he levelled his satire against its absence from the curriculum of many an Irish surgeon. It seems almost as though forty years had passed in vain, and that it was to the student of 1888, not to those of 1835, that that distinguished physician drew his picture of the clinical practitioner, taught solely at the bedside, armed with a knowledge of a formidable system of symptomatology, of nosology, and of therapeutics, but ignorant of morbid anatomy, the mother of them all. He describes such a man attacking a case of dropsy, trying remedy after remedy, while the patient grows worse and worse under his treatment, and finally dies. "But," says Graves, "the friends are not dissatisfied with the medical attendant, who excuses himself by asserting that he has successively resorted to every remedy which has been recommended in dropsy; and, in truth, if you look over the list of medicines exhibited in rapid succession, you will probably find that his excuse is not unsupported by facts. But, gentlemen, these cases in which everything has been tried are precisely those in which nothing has been tried, in which medicine has followed medicine, and each symptom of disease has indiscriminately