

REPORTS AND ANALYSES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

NEW INSTRUMENTS FOR INTESTINAL ANASTOMOSIS.
MR. J. JACKSON CLARKE, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. (London, W.) writes: In 1896 I published a "suggestion" for intestinal anastomosis; this was a bobbin which differed from a Murphy's button in several important particulars. For example, its lumen had about double the diameter of that of a Murphy's button; the approximation was effected by the pressure of two indiarubber rings instead of by a metal diaphragm; and again, the bobbin was very light. The instrument worked well on the cadaver, but on trying it on an anæsthetised dog I found so much difficulty in getting the rubber rings into place, that I decided not to use the bobbin for human surgery until certain modifications which I am now devising are completed. Meanwhile recent experience of

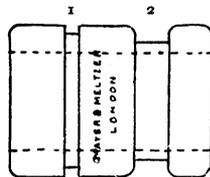


Fig. 1.—Side view of rubber bobbin for end-to-end anastomosis. The interrupted lines show the size of the lumen.

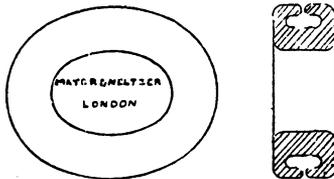


Fig. 3.—Rubber ring grooved, with recurved lips, for lateral anastomosis; side view and section.

Murphy's button has decided me against employing it again, and as additional resources in intestinal surgery I have devised the two instruments described below, which have been carefully made for me by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer.

Bobbin for End-to-end Anastomosis.—This is a red rubber instrument, shown in Fig. 1. The two ends of the bowel are secured by purse-string sutures in the narrow groove (1), then

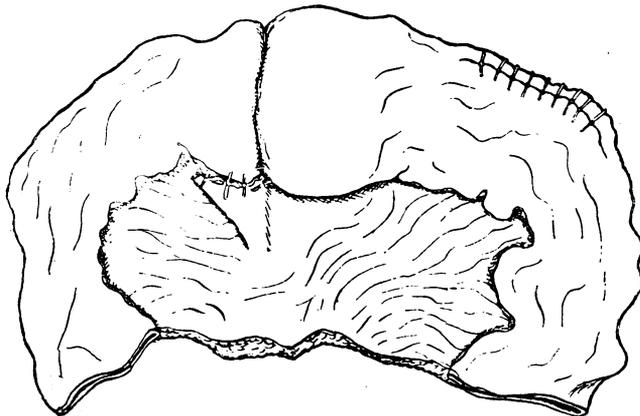


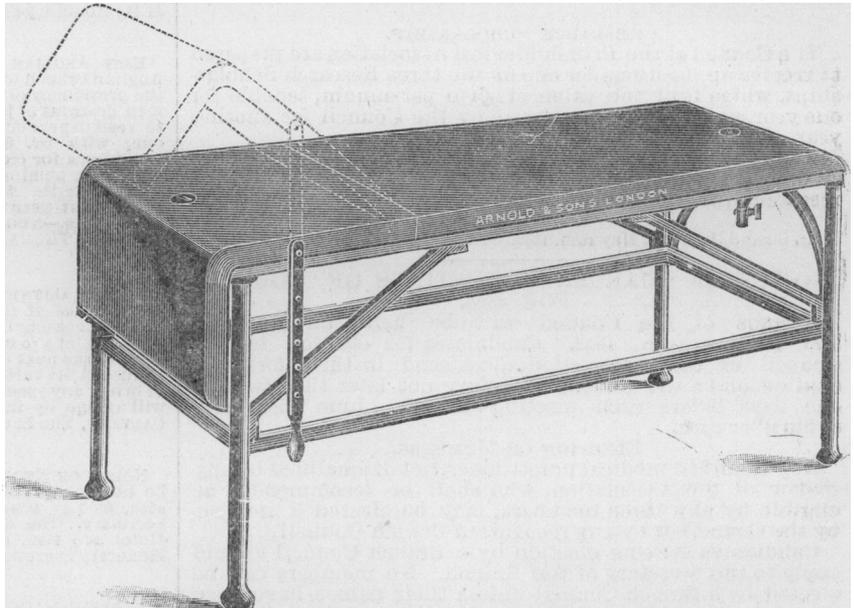
Fig. 2.—The anastomosis complete.

a lateral opening is made in that section of the bowel that is on the side of the narrow, and away from the broader, groove.

The lateral opening is made so far away from the divided ends of intestine that it is clear of the bobbin when the anastomosis is completed, as shown in Fig. 2. This is effected by drawing the end of the bobbin with the attached sections of bowel through the lateral opening, and slipping a soft rubber ring over the bobbin as far as the broad groove (2), where the ring compresses together the peritoneal surfaces of the two sections of the bowel. The anastomosis is completed by withdrawing the protruding bobbin, etc., into the lumen of the bowel, closing the lateral opening and stitching the mesentery, as shown in Fig. 2. For lateral anastomosis—for example, gastro-enterostomy—I have devised the simple oval rubber ring, the side view and section of which are shown in Fig. 3. The margins of the two lateral openings in the bowel, etc., are secured in turn by purse-string stitches to the bottom of the groove in the rubber ring, and the anastomosis is completed by Lembert's stitches.

A HOT-WATER OPERATION TABLE.

An operation table, made of iron enamelled white, with zinc top to hold hot water, has been constructed by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, of West Smithfield. It is claimed that by its use



the Trendelenburg position can be maintained without loss of heat, as the hot water remains at whatever incline the table may be placed. Its general form and construction are shown in the accompanying drawing.

A NEW DOMESTIC REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

This destructor commends itself by reason of its simplicity. The ashpit of an ordinary range is enclosed, making a chamber into which the refuse is placed to be dried by the heat of the fire. It is stated that all greasy matter and fat is effectually absorbed by the ash falling through the fire bars. When everything is reduced to a combustible condition it is shovelled into the fire. The escape of smells and vapours into the kitchen during the process of drying is provided against by an adequate draft. Further particulars can be obtained from the maker and patentee, J. B. Petter, Yeovil, Somerset.

AN ASEPTIC CABINET.

MESSRS. ARNOLD AND SONS, of West Smithfield, have made a cabinet for instruments which is constructed of iron enamelled white; the top, back, sides, and door, as well as the two shelves, are made of plate glass. The cabinet is made in two sizes, one 18 inches, the other 24 inches, high, price respectively 35s. and 55s. Owing to its construction, the cabinet is easily cleaned and is likely to be useful.

ERRATUM.—In the article on Mr. H. F. Baker's wrench for talipes equinus (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 7th, p. 1209) the blocks were accidentally transposed.