different diseases, such as acute infections, especially typhoid fever, gastro-intestinal diseases, gout, nephritis, and diabetes mellitus. Part IV deals with various therapeutic methods, such as the treatment of poisoning, emergency measures in other conditions, and the various forms of hydrotherapy. A valuable chapter, which we would specially recommend to the senior student and young practitioner, is entitled "Dock's twenty drugs." In Part V typical charts, history sheets, and certificates as used at the Barnes Hospital are reproduced.

The book, which contains a vast amount of valuable information not readily accessible elsewhere, should form part of the library of every hospital. We fear that the high price, for which the reproduction of many unnecessary charts is probably responsible, will deter many from its purchase.

CLOUDS, FOGS, AND SMOKE.

IN Messrs. Churchill's series of textbooks of chemical research and engineering is now included a volume on *Clouds and Smokes*,[6] with the sub-title "The properties of disperse systems in gases and their practical applications." The author is Dr. WILLIAM E. GIBBS, chief chemist to the Salt Union, and, to quote his own words, the volume is concerned with "disperse systems—for example, fog, smoke, flame, the atmosphere itself—in which a liquid or a solid substance exists in a highly disperse condition in a gas." These disperse systems he calls "aerosols." In the first part of the work he describes the formation of aerosols and their general properties, including their stability and their chemical and physical properties. In the second part the question is considered from the point of view of meteorology, and one chapter deals with smoke in warfare. Of the highest practical importance are the two chapters concerned with the industrial treatment of fumes and dusty gases and with dust explosions. After reference to various forms of industrial aerosols an account is given of purification methods that may be adopted, including electrostatic precipitation, which the author considers "provides the most satisfactory method of air purification, for it not only precipitates bacteria but actually kills them." Until the introduction of this method the industrial treatment of fumes and dusty gases was restricted, he maintains, to purely empirical methods, and he suggests that the knowledge and experience from the many systematic investigations conducted during the war concerning the gases employed in chemical warfare might usefully be applied to the study of those industrial smokes and fumes the successful treatment of which is a matter of such wide industrial importance. Although a very appreciative foreword is contributed by Sir OLIVER LODGE to this volume, which he aptly describes as "a textbook, or work of reference on a rather out-of-the-way subject, which, nevertheless, is of considerable practical importance," those whose interests are concerned with its subject-matter, while giving due weight to so high an authority, will value the work for its intrinsic worth and will acknowledge their indebtedness to Dr. Gibbs for the painstaking manner in which he has performed a task of considerable difficulty. Many illustrations of apparatus add to the value of the work, which is also enhanced by exhaustive references to the literature of the subject, to be found for the most part in monographs or in contributions to learned societies.

It is fifty years since Parliament decreed that "any chimney (not being the chimney of a private dwelling house) sending forth black smoke in such a quantity as to be a nuisance" should be a nuisance liable to be dealt with summarily, but for the most part this enactment has proved to be of little avail in securing a purer atmosphere. One of the reasons for this unsatisfactory position is no doubt the fact that the duty of setting the law in motion is cast upon officials who have had no special training for the work and that the work forms only a small part of what they have to do. A step in the right direction has been taken by the Royal Sanitary Institute in establishing an examination for smoke inspectors; candidates could not have a better textbook than *The Smoke Inspector's Handbook*,[7] by Mr. HERBERT G. CLINCH, who is the chief smoke inspector for the county borough of Halifax. It ought, however, to have a far wider circle of readers. It contains so much valuable material that it should appeal to medical officers of health, manufacturers, works managers, and, above all, to the men employed in stoking, for over and over again the author emphasizes the importance of skilled and scientific stoking, as well as the provision of furnaces and properly devised apparatus, which, while increasing the amount of heat produced, will lessen the quantity of smoke at present belched forth from the chimney stacks. We cordially agree that the successful smoke inspector should be a diligent teacher of stokers, and that he should be in a position to convince manufacturers that smoke means waste. The chapters on the boilers in common use and on various types of mechanical stokers are written in an exceptionally lucid manner, and the lessons taught in the text are made clear by many well executed illustrations. In a foreword to the volume Dr. CYRIL BANKS, medical officer of health for Halifax, refers to the public health aspect of the smoke abatement problem, and, in anticipation of the critics who point to the adoption of electric power as a factor in lessening the smoke nuisance, reminds us that electricity has to be generated, and that furnaces will still be used in the process.

[6] *Clouds and Smokes.* By William E. Gibbs, D.Sc. With a foreword by Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1924. (Demy 8vo, pp. xiii + 240; 31 figures. 10s. 6d. net.)

NOTES ON BOOKS.

OF the nine original contributions to the first quarterly instalment of this year's *Guy's Hospital Reports*[8] five are devoted to the abdomen. The longest paper is that of Dr. J. M. H. Campbell, Mr. H. M. Baird, and Mr. J. R. B. Hern on the importance of estimating chlorides in the fractional test-meal samples and some experiments with the duodenal tube, from which it appears that the curve of the total chlorides is the best means of measuring the amount of gastric juice secreted and enables a distinction to be drawn between diminished secretion on the one hand and normal secretion with excessive neutralization on the other hand. Colospasm or chronic spasm of the large intestine is distinguished from the more acute and localized spasm of the colon by Mr. Philip Turner, who states that belladonna and hyoscyamus are the most efficient remedies. Mr. R. P. Rowlands, a most faithful contributor to this publication, describes the two cases of myoma of the stomach he has seen during seventeen years' work as surgeon to the hospital; both the patients nearly bled to death before operation, but the success that may follow the removal of a gastric myoma shows that exploratory operation is sometimes justified even when the outlook appears hopeless. Mr. Grant Massie reports a case in which two ulcers—an acute jejunal ulcer and a chronic ulcer at a gastro-jejunostomy stoma—perforated simultaneously eighteen months after the gastro-jejunostomy. He distinguishes jejunal ulcers, which tend to perforate acutely, from ulcers at the anastomotic stoma, which run a chronic course with little liability to perforate. The general belief that the anterior operation is more prone to be followed by jejunal ulcer and perforation is not supported by his collection of cases. Dr. J. A. Ryle records two cases in adults and one in a girl of 15 years of fatty stools from obstruction of the lacteals, and discusses the clinical relation of such cases to pancreatic disease and the coeliac affection. In a paper on anisocytosis, with special reference to pernicious anaemia, Dr. C. Price-Jones reports a number of observations tending to show that pernicious anaemia is a megalocytic anaemia, the diameters of the red cells varying from 3.75 to 13 μ, the latter being the "pernicious element" and the former the "anaemic element"; the large mean diameter of the red cells is independent of the anaemia and persists throughout the course of the disease, whereas the high degree of anisocytosis varies directly with the anaemia.

The handbook, *Blood Chemistry Colorimetric Methods*,[9] by Dr. W. J. STONE, is addressed to the general practitioner. It deals with methods for estimating uric acid, creatinin, blood sugar, blood chlorides, blood cholesterol, and the

[7] *The Smoke Inspector's Handbook, or Economic Smoke Abatement.* By Herbert G. Clinch, M.R.San.Inst., M.I.H. With foreword by Cyril Banks, M.B., B.S.Lond., D.P H.Sheff. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. 1923. (Demy 8vo, pp. xvi + 136; 60 figures. 7s. 6d. net.)

[8] *Guy's Hospital Reports*, vol. lxxiv (vol. iv, Fourth Series), No. 1, January, 1924. Edited by A. F. Hurst, M.D. London: Wakley and Sons (1912), Ltd. 1924. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 115; 80 figures. Great Britain: subscriptions, £2 2s. for volume of four numbers, single numbers 12s. 6d. each.)

[9] *Blood Chemistry Colorimetric Methods.* By W. J. Stone, M.D. New York: P. B. Hoeber, Inc. 1923. (Med. 8vo, pp. ix + 75; 5 figures. 2.25 dols.)

nitrogen of the urine. Clinical comments and dietary suggestions follow each section, and there are chapters on diagnosis of impaired kidney function and the dietary control of disturbances of metabolism. The last chapter is on diabetes, and includes insulin treatment. The methods described are all standard ones, though some have been slightly modified to meet the demands of the clinical laboratory using relatively small quantities of blood. It is questionable whether those to whom this book is dedicated will have either the time or the inclination to perform these tests, but those who are disposed to undertake such work will find it convenient to have the methods collected into one handy book of small compass.

Marriage and Syphilis: A Treatise on Eugenics,[10] by Dr. G. M. KATSAINOS of Boston, U.S.A., has been written from the point of view of the propagandist rather than that of the syphilologist. The author believes that syphilis, in spite of the work of public health departments, voluntary societies, and individual workers, has not yet received the attention that it merits, and in his book he makes a forcible, if somewhat sentimental appeal to his readers. The sentence printed on the fly-leaf sums up his object: "If by this work of mine the procreation of even one syphilitic child is prevented my time, efforts, and expenses have not been in vain."

The *Weekly Telegraph Guide to Holiday Resorts*,[11] a deservedly popular annual which has now reached its twenty-ninth year, contains a brief description in alphabetical order of holiday resorts in England, the Channel Islands, Isle of Wight and Isle of Man, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, with lists of hotels, boarding-houses, and lodgings. A few pages are appended on holiday tours in Belgium.

[10] *Marriage and Syphilis: A Treatise on Eugenics.* By G. M. Katsainos, M.D. Boston: Wright and Potter. 1923. (Med. 8vo, pp. 162; 23 figures. 3 dols.)

[11] *The Weekly Telegraph Guide to Holiday Resorts of the United Kingdom and Irish Free State.* Twenty-ninth year of publication. London: "Holiday Guide" Manager, *Weekly Telegraph* Office. 1924. (Med. 8vo, pp. 384; illustrated. 6d.)

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

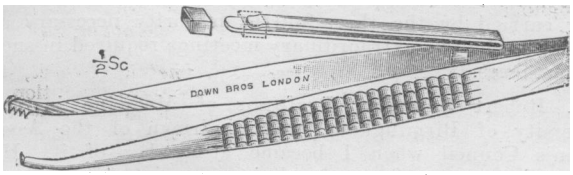
An Ophthalmoscope Attachment.

DRS. W. O. C. JARRATT and LEONARD P. LOCKHART have devised an ophthalmoscope attachment which they describe as follows: "Owing to the difficulty which many students and practitioners experience in performing ophthalmoscopic examination by the direct method with a Morton's ophthalmoscope, and to the expense entailed by the purchase of an electric instrument, we have devised a simple attachment for the ordinary ophthalmoscope, by means of which it is possible to obtain the advantage of the electrical instrument at a comparatively small cost. It consists of a collar and an adjustable arm which is fitted to the ophthalmoscope at the junction of the handle and the body. The electrical part is of the simplest, being merely a pocket battery, flexible wire, and a flash-lamp bulb. At a slight additional cost a variable resistance may be obtained."

The apparatus is made by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, Ltd., 48, Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

Magazine for Michel's Clips.

Messrs. Down Bros. have recently made for Mr. BERNARD WARD, F.R.C.S. (Birmingham), a magazine for Michel's clips, which has proved satisfactory in use. It is a combination of Childe's forceps with a fixed magazine. The main advantage claimed for it is that the serrations at the end of Childe's forceps make it easy



to secure eversion of the skin edges and maintain it whilst introducing the clips. The magazine when in use lies parallel with the skin, and the clips are drawn off from the lower end instead of the upper as in Bonney's instrument, a fact which brings the clips closer to the wound and makes for more rapid application. A metal cap fits over the end of the magazine and prevents the clips from slipping off during sterilization or whilst being carried in the surgeon's bag.

The British Medical Association: ITS CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

AN HISTORICAL SURVEY.

BY

JOHN C. McVAIL, M.D., LL.D., F.R.F.P.S.

(*Continued from page 1054.*)

III.—THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE.

THE Annual Congress at Ipswich in 1900 was under the genial presidentship of Dr. W. A. Elliston. At the second General Meeting on August 1st, Mr. Victor Horsley brought forward a resolution, of which notice had been given:

"That a Committee be appointed to consider and report upon the best means of reorganizing the constitution of the British Medical Association, such Committee to furnish a provisional report to the Branches by March 1st, 1901." (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1900, vol. ii, pp. 234-321.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, and Mr. Horsley proceeded to submit a list of twenty-three names for membership. This was objected to, and Dr. Ward Cousins moved that half the number be appointed by the Council. After discussion Mr. Horsley accepted the amendment, the number of members being fixed at twenty-four. As regards the attitude which the Committee was to adopt on the crucial question of an annual conference of delegates elected by members from limited areas—a question raised by Dr. Cox—it was agreed by a majority to adopt an amendment by Dr. Radcliffe Crocker:

"That the Committee be invited to consider and report upon the question of delegation in their deliberations, but that they be not instructed that they must evolve such a principle."

At the third General Meeting on the following day (August 2nd) the President of Council intimated the names of the Council's quota of the Committee. They consisted of Surgeon-General Hamilton as representing South Africa, Mr. Cantlie as representing East India and the Archipelago, Sir John Moore as representing Ireland, Dr. J. C. McVail as representing Scotland,* and Mr. Jenner Verrall (Brighton), Dr. S. Woodcock (Manchester), Dr. R. Saundby (Birmingham), Mr. Andrew Clark (London), Dr. Ward Cousins (Portsmouth), Dr. Radcliffe Crocker (London), Mr. H. Butlin (London), and Dr. Roberts Thomson (Bournemouth) as representing England.

Mr. Victor Horsley submitted a list of twelve names to complete the twenty-four: Dr. R. C. Buist of Dundee for Scotland, Professor Byers for Ireland, Dr. C. G. Gooding for the West Indies, Dr. Morier for Australasia, and, for England, Dr. Bateman (London), Dr. Cox (Gateshead), Dr. William Gordon (Exeter), Dr. Milburn (Hull), Dr. A. Brown Ritchie (Manchester), Dr. J. S. Whitaker (Yarmouth), and himself. In regard to Canada he named Professor T. H. Cameron, who was present at the meeting. Professor Cameron, however, suggested Mr. Edmund Owen (London), who would be at Ottawa delivering an address in the following month and would be able to ascertain the local view. This was agreed to and was a most fortunate appointment, as the Committee, being left to elect its own chairman, chose Mr. Owen, who turned out to be a most successful guide and arbiter in very difficult discussions. In addition to the twenty-four members thus appointed the Committee included, *ex officio*, Dr. W. A. Elliston (Ipswich) and Dr. G. B. Ferguson (Cheltenham), respectively the President and President-elect of the Association.

When members of the British Medical Association have occasion to visit its rooms they see on the walls photographs, engravings, or cartoons of many of those who in past years have taken their part in carrying on the great organization which has done so much for the science of

* At that time I was slowly recovering from the effects of a long illness, and though absent from only two meetings I took comparatively little part in the work of the Committee.