

In yet a third volume, *Wulf the Saxon* (6s.), Mr. G. A. Henty tells again the story of the Norman Conquest from the side of the conquered, and in this, as in his other stories, he has gone to the best sources of information for his historical details. Mr. Ralph Peacock has designed a stirring frontispiece and twelve other illustrations, in which he shows great command of black and white methods. In *Olaf the Glorious* (5s.), also issued by Messrs. Blackie and Sons, Limited, Mr. Robert Leighton has gone still further back into history, and has founded an enthralling story on the life of Olaf, King of Norway, whose adventurous career lends itself well to this purpose. This volume also is well illustrated by Mr. Ralph Peacock, and contains also a map of North-Western Europe at the end of the tenth century, so that ingenious youth may be induced to combine instruction with amusement. *To Greenland and the Pole* (5s.) (Blackie and Sons, Limited), by Dr. Gordon Stables, is appropriately dedicated to Fridtjof Nansen. The author confesses that the hero of the book had for his prototype the brave Norwegian. The book is full of ice and ice adventures, and of the peculiar methods of progression over snow by the use of *skis*, with which the British public first became acquainted through their adoption by Nansen for his journey. The volume is in every way appropriate to the season. Yet another story of adventure, published by Blackie and Sons, is *In Press Gang Days* (3s. 6d.), by Edgar Bickering, illustrated by W. S. Stacey. The hero, after his impressment, becomes as good a sailor as the rest of them, and the boy must be hard to please who is not entranced by the adventurous career described. Messrs. Blackie and Son also make provision for girls at this season. *Banshee Castle*, by Rosa Mulholland (6s.), is an agreeable story, which introduces the reader to some very pleasant and some very wild inhabitants of the sister isle. A very simple, touching story and one, as we have ascertained by experiment, highly appreciated by children, is Miss Beatrice Harraden's *Things will Take a Turn* (2s. 6d.). The pleasure with which the volume may be perused is much increased by a series of forty-six illustrations by Mr. J. H. Bacon.

From Messrs. Cassell and Co. we welcome the annual volume of their *Family Magazine* (9s.), copiously illustrated, and containing, in addition to numerous stories, a great deal of information useful to the amateur carpenter and the domestic manager.

The Christmas number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* appears in a gorgeous cover, the promise of which is not belied by the literary and artistic contents. There are interesting short stories by Mrs. Burnett, Anthony Hope, George Gissing, Mrs. F. A. Steel, Grant Allen, Stanley Weyman, Dr. Richard Garnett, and other well-known writers. The illustrations are of a degree of excellence even beyond the high standard to which this favourite magazine has accustomed us.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

The custom of exchanging Christmas cards, in spite of the jeers of certain cynics, would seem to be by no means on the decline. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, 72, Coleman Street, E.C., inform us that last year they sold more Christmas and New Year cards than in any previous season. Fortified by this sign of public approval and by the receipt of numerous prizes at the Chicago Exhibition, they have this year prepared a still larger list than usual of the cards, booklets, and calendars for which they are famous. Among the cards it is, as the experience of most persons who set out to purchase them proves, almost impossible to make a selection. All possess special titles to approval, and some of them are artistic works of great elegance. We may mention in particular a black and white series, including etchings, photogravures and phototypes, many of which are worthy of permanent preservation. A special feature among many of the cards is the use of gold and silver dust for ornamentation, and we notice others which are made of celluloid, others, again, which contain a calendar in some dainty mounting, and one which is a perpetual calendar with ribbons to carry the dates. In addition to these *articles de luxe* there are others of simpler material and elegant design, which are sold at a smaller price. There are also cards which unfold to form calendars for suspension, and numerous small booklets containing poetical selections suitable to the season.

Messrs. C. W. Faulkner and Co., 41, Jewin Street, also send us a number of Christmas cards, some of the most elegant of which are printed in monochrome. They also send us large coloured reproductions of pictures of dogs and cats, suitable for suspension in the nursery. This firm is supposed to make a speciality of the issue of calendars and date blocks in various forms, many of them of great elegance, and some may claim to be not only elegant, but novel. Messrs. Faulkner also issue a game for the table, "Malletins" (1s.), which appears to be a kind of cross between croquet and golf, which is likely to be extremely popular with children.

DIARIES.

Messrs. Charles Letts and Co., 3, Royal Exchange, have issued again this year the large series of diaries, desk tablets, and wall almanacks for the excellence with which they are so well known. A novelty this year appears to be that the owners of certain of the diaries are insured for one year against railway accident. Among the diaries which carry this privilege is Charles Letts's *Improved Scribbling Diary*, interleaved one week in the opening (2s.); Charles Letts's *Office Diary and Notebook*, one day on a page, and his *Thin Pocket Diary and Notebook*, with one week on an opening, the opposite page being arranged for cash account. Charles Letts's *A.B.C. Medical Diary and Visiting List* is issued in two forms, the one in leather cover with tuck flap (5s.), the other with silk cover to fit into a pocketbook (2s. 6d.). This visiting list has gained a high reputation and is eminently portable and practical. In its publication, Messrs. Charles Letts and Co. are associated with Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, whose useful compilation *Excerpta Therapeutica*, consisting of recent notes drawn from various sources upon therapeutics of drugs in general use, is bound up with the lists. Charles Letts's thin *Two Day Pocket Diary and Notebook* (1s. 6d.) is a convenient notebook for the waistcoat pocket, and as it shows only two days on each page, allows ample room for entering social appointments. Those whose engagements are less numerous, or pockets less capacious, will find what they want in the *Thumb Diary*, published in leather (at 1s.). *The Pocket Diary and Cushbook*, one day on a page, printed on good thin paper, is a model of cheapness (in leather 2s. 6d.) and elegance. Charles Letts and Co. also issue convenient desk blotting pads; one is provided with a diary (1s.), the other with a revolving date case and folios for entering appointments, ingeniously enclosed in the cover (2s.). The same firm issue several kinds of date indicators for hanging on the wall (at 1s.), of an improved pattern, and a tablet diary also intended for suspension (1s.). The amount of thought and ingenuity given to the preparation of these minor conveniences of life is remarkable, and reflects the greatest credit upon this well-known firm.

From the Religious Tract Society we have received the new issue of the *Scripture Pocketbook*, which contains a great amount of information. Mr. James Glaisher, F.R.S., contributes the astronomical notes to it. The book, from its arrangement and general character, appears to be particularly well adapted to ladies' use.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

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

PHARMACEUTICAL SPECIALITIES.

WE have received from Messrs. Ferris and Co., Bristol, a number of pharmaceutical preparations which certainly carry out the aim of modern pharmacy, that of preparing medicines in a definite, portable, and palatable form.

Cascara Chocolate Bon-Bons contain an active extract of cascara sagrada; the taste of the drug is entirely covered by the chocolate, so that they can be taken by the most fastidious patient without any difficulty.

The thyroid gland of the sheep is prepared in the form of a sterilised glycerine extract, and a powder obtained by carefully drying the glands at a low temperature. The Thyroid

Powder is made into pills, compressed tablets, or enclosed in a flexible gelatine capsule.

Lactated Pepsine, a combination essentially of pepsine and sugar of milk, possesses considerable digestive power.

Antiseptic Sublimate Powders are very convenient for preparing solutions of corrosive sublimate. The contents of each packet readily dissolve in a pint of water, and form a pink solution of the strength of 1 in 1,000.

Granular Effervescent Piperazine contains 5 grains of piperazine in each drachm. This preparation is a very pleasant form for the administration of this new uric acid solvent.

"Hay Asthma Powder" is prepared in accordance with the suggestion of Mr. W. Beverly, of Scarborough. It contains *datura tatula*, *stramonium*, *cannabis indica*, *lobelia inflata*, and oil of eucalyptus.

Double Cyanide Antiseptic Powder contains the well-known double cyanide of mercury and zinc. It is packed in a tin box with a perforated lid, and is intended to be used as a dusting powder.

"HÆMOFERRUM."

It is claimed that this preparation contains the ferruginous constituent of blood in which the iron exists in a state of organic combination, and is more susceptible of assimilation than in the ordinary saline compounds of iron. "Hæmo-ferrum" is described as being prepared aseptically from fresh defibrinated bullock's blood. It is supplied in the form of lenticular tablets coated with gelatine, the average weight of which is 5 grains each. When immersed in lukewarm water a deep blood red solution is formed, leaving an insoluble residue amounting to about two-fifths of the whole mass, and consisting of a siliceous material resembling kaolin. The portion soluble in water was found to contain 0.526 per cent. of ferric oxide, equal to 0.368 per cent. iron, and the actual quantity of iron in each tablet was 0.011 grain. The advantages claimed for "Hæmo-ferrum" are that it is not astringent and does not constipate or disturb the digestive organs, is not styptic, and does not colour or corrode the teeth, and being non-poisonous is free from danger. It is prepared by Messrs. Frederick Stearns and Co., Manufacturing Pharmacists, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., and the agents for the United Kingdom are Messrs. Thos. Christy and Co., 25, Lime Street, E.C.

UNSWEETENED CONDENSED MILK.

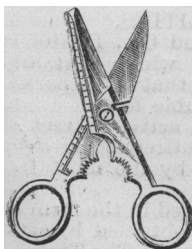
The preparation manufactured at Romanshorn, in Switzerland, and distinguished as the "First Swiss Brand," is described as consisting simply of pure fresh milk, sterilised and condensed to one-fourth of its original bulk, without the addition of any sugar or preservative agent.

Analysis of a sample showed that it contained 27 per cent. of solids not fat, and 10.5 per cent. of fat, or 30 per cent. of cream, and was quite free from cane sugar, results which agree very closely with the statements in the prospectus. When mixed with three parts of water it gave a rich sweet milk.

It is stated that the "First Swiss Brand" will keep good for years in any climate, and is, therefore, specially suited for use in passenger steamers and in the navy, as well as adapted for feeding infants and invalids. It is supplied by the First Swiss Alpine Milk Exporting Company, Limited, and the milk is obtainable from all chemists or grocers; or at the office of the Company, 17 and 18, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.

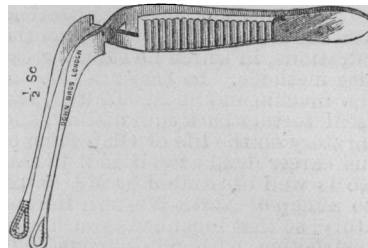
COMBINATION POCKET SCISSORS.

We have received from Messrs. J. Foote and Sons (62, and 63, New Bond Street) a combination pocket scissors, which they describe, not unjustly, as a veritable *multum in parvo*. It is not only a pair of scissors, but it is a 3-inch measure, a pair of pliers, a wire cutter, and coin tester, a screwdriver, and railway-carriage key; and may also be put to several other more obvious uses. The tool appears to be well made by a Sheffield firm, and is likely to be extremely useful in many common emergencies.



SELF-RETAINING AURAL POLYPUS FORCEPS.

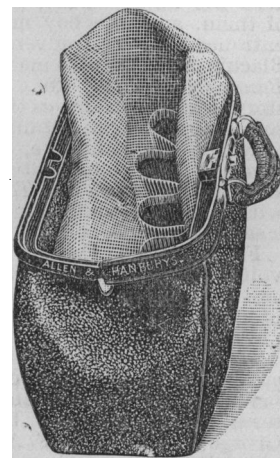
Mr. WYATT WINGBAVE (Assistant Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital) has devised a self-retaining aural polypus forceps, in which a strong cross-acting spring is applied as a substitute for the slide used for clamping ordinary polypus forceps. Surgeons who prefer forceps to the snare will, it is thought, appreciate the stability of this instrument and



the ease with which it is manipulated. Messrs. Down Brothers are the makers.

ASEPTIC MIDWIFERY BAGS.

MESSESS. ALLEN AND HANBURY'S have submitted to us a midwifery bag with movable aseptic lining which seems to us to combine the advantages of safety to the patient and convenience to the practitioner. The lining is fitted with pockets and loops for bottles of any size. When soiled the



lining has simply to be taken out, washed in an antiseptic solution, and replaced; when worn out a new lining can be inserted at a trifling cost. The bag is so constructed as to remain open, an advantage which will be appreciated by practitioners. The bag is supplied empty or completely fitted with instruments made at Messrs. Allen and Hanbury's own works, and can be obtained at the establishment they have opened at 48, Wigmore Street.

COCA WINES.

WE are asked to state that the tonic coca champagne, referred to as No. 1 in the analyses published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 10th, is known as the "coca tonic champagne" (Laurent-Perrier).

The *Osservatore Romano*, which is the recognised organ of the Vatican, suggests that, now that Professor Baccelli is about to place the universities of Italy on an autonomous basis, the time has come for the establishment of a Catholic University in Italy.

THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF MONTPELLIER.—The town of Montpellier has voted an annual grant of 6,000 francs (£240) towards the foundation of a Chair of Microbiology in the Medical Faculty. A Chair of Histology is also to be founded. The Bouisson-Bertrand legacy, amounting in all to some £40,000, will probably be applied to the creation or rather the restoration of the Chair of General Pathology and Experimental Medicine. Extensive laboratories will also be established in connection with the Chairs of Microbiology and Experimental Pathology. Among the other projected additions to the medical school are wards for chronic diseases and an institute on the lines of the Institut Pasteur of Paris.