

rather than a medical subject. A closer study convinces one of the value of its arguments to both combatant and medical officers. The first-aid section is adequate, laying stress on the problems of immediate treatment.

This is no book for the complacent—or perhaps it is. It is clear, concise, and deliberately realistic. It is well constructed and well written. As Tom Wintringham puts it in his introduction, this book can be recommended to every citizen "who can help to ensure that our wounded fighting men or civilians get what they deserve in the way of aid and comfort."

### Notes on Books

Prof. J. B. S. HALDANE is a doughty controversialist, and his essays entitled *Science in Peace and War* (The Scientific Book Club, 111, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2) are frankly tendentious; naturally so since they first appeared in the defunct *Daily Worker*. Even in the chapter on human physiology the bad capitalist baron is revealed lurking behind the scenes waiting to injure the virtuous worker. People who are honest with themselves must recognize that emotion colours their views—witness the heightened appreciation of Soviet scientists in this country since last June. But it is unusual for a man of the intellectual ability of Prof. Haldane to see everything in such sharply contrasted tones of plain black and white. Each chapter is full of useful information and then ends with a Marxian moral. Interspersed with scientific facts we find such statements as that the classification of animals and plants was invented at the same time as the chronometer because both were needed for the purposes of imperialism (p. 90). But when he writes on page 209, "Our rulers [are] sabotaging the war effort . . . largely through sheer blind hatred of the workers," Prof. Haldane rules himself out of court.

*Good Health on War-time Food*, by BARBARA CALLOW, M.A., M.Sc. (Oxford University Press, 6d.), gives a short account in very simple language of what is meant by body-building foods, energy foods, and protective foods, and contains many practical hints for making the best use of the food available at the present time. It is evident that the author herself is tackling the problem with courage and real enjoyment, and her book should put fresh heart into numbers of housewives who are only too anxious to feed their families well but who do not always know just how to do it.

In his book *Diet in Sinus Infections and Colds* Dr. E. V. ULLMANN made a useful contribution to the study of the relationship between general disorders and local disturbances of the nasal mucous membrane, and argued effectively that laryngologists should pay more attention to diet when treating sinus troubles and recurrent nasal catarrh. Since the first edition appeared in 1933 there has been much wider recognition of the part played by dietary habits in building up resistance against infection, and as a result the surgical approach to sinus disease has declined in favour of more conservative methods that take into account habits of life, constitutional defects, a deficiency of vitamins, and other dietetic errors. In preparing a new edition (Macmillan and Co., 8s. 6d.) Dr. Ullmann has made some changes in the dietetic treatment recommended, but basically the book remains the same. He has added chapters on mother's milk, on allergy, and on vitamins, with special reference to vitamin A.

The *Bulletin of War Medicine*, under the auspices of the Medical Research Council, is edited by Sir H. Harold Scott and his colleagues at the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases. The Index to Volume I (Nos. 1-6), 1940-1, of this valuable publication has now been issued at 6d. by H.M. Stationery Office.

*Martin Croft*, by JOSEPHINE BELL (Longmans, Green and Co., 8s. 6d.), is a straightforward novel of modern times with a largely medical background. The people and situations are clearly depicted and the writing is commendable. A warped and self-torturing medical man (apparently a hospital physician, but the

point is left obscure) gives his name to the title-page. He and his Victorian period-piece wife—a bad domestic tyrant—are shown against some more attractive human figures, including Dr. Croft's two medical housemates in the Harley Street area, and the girl who acts as secretary to all three doctors and holds the centre of the stage through most of the book. One of the secondary figures is a very nasty unqualified mental healer, who gets his deserts in the long run; there is also an attractive and virile young American with a gift for healing. The author is already known as a competent practitioner in the detective story line. This is a book in which criminal business plays a very subordinate part, the chief motive being the portrayal of character and temperament in the years just before the war, and it ends with the return of Dr. Croft, his outlook changed, from the beaches of Dunkirk.

## Preparations and Appliances

### A USEFUL SPECULUM

MR. JOHN STALLWORTHY, F.R.C.S., Oxford, writes:

The following very useful modification of Graves's vaginal speculum (Fig. 1) will commend itself widely to general practitioners as well as to those who specialize in gynaecology. The disadvantage often experienced with a metal speculum is the difficulty in obtaining illumination of the cervix and vault. This difficulty has been met by making the lower blade of the speculum of curvylite. By this means an indirect illumina-

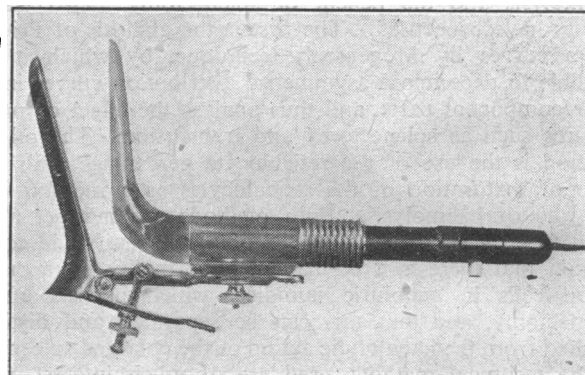


FIG. 1. (Patent No. 540,806.)

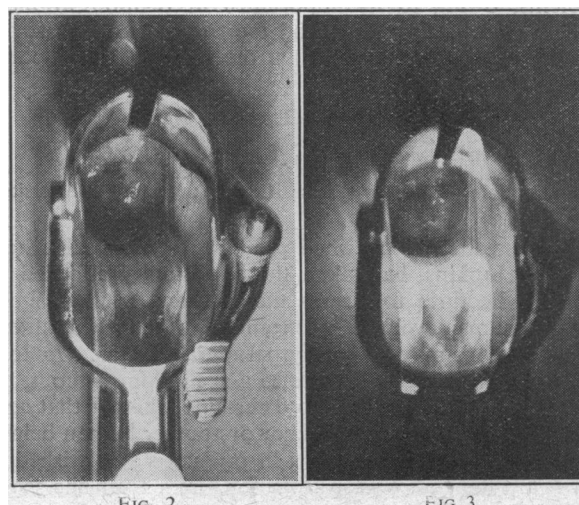


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

tion is provided. The power for the light can be obtained from dry cells, or from an electric main if a suitable transformer is used.

An extensive trial of this instrument has proved it to be most efficient. Although metal and curvylite join together in the one instrument it can be sterilized by boiling without any dismantling. In place of the screw handle illustrated in the