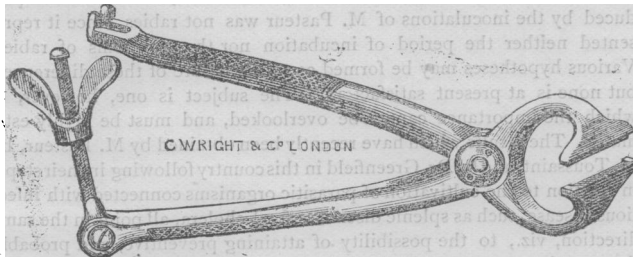


THE *Archives d'Ophthalmologie*, of which the first number appears, edited by M. F. Panas, E. Landolt of Paris, and F. Poncet of Cluny, promises to be one of the most important scientific journals of ophthalmology published abroad. It proposes to itself to publish the more detailed and elaborate work of French ophthalmologists, who have long been without an adequate representation in ophthalmological science and literature. The first part includes some important papers by Landolt, on a New Method of Blepharoplasty, and on a New Telemeter; by Poncet, on Pterygion; by Manfredi and Cofler, on Ocular Tuberculosis; by Charpentier, on the Sense of Light and Colour-Sense; by Badal, on Some Points in Physiological Optics; etc. It is well printed and illustrated, and reflects credit, by its mechanical execution, on the publishers, Delahaye and Lecrosnier, Paris.

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

### BENHAM'S CLAMP FOR THE TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS BY CRUSHING.

THIS clamp has been constructed by Mr. Benham, to carry out the treatment of Mr. G. D. Pollock of St. George's Hospital, by whom it is approved and used. Without enumerating other advantages, it is pointed out that it so completely crushes the pile, as to leave only a slight fringed remnant, without any pain or bleeding, rendering the convalescence of the patient a matter of a few hours. The patient suffering from hæmorrhoids, being prepared for the operation in the usual manner, is placed under the influence of an anæsthetic. He is then turned on his left side; the right leg is well flexed and fixed with a strap, which is carried under the knee and round the neck. The pile to be removed is drawn well down by pronged hook or forceps.



The clamp is applied to the base of the pile, and at once tightly and firmly closed by the action of the screw at the end of the handles. The portion of pile which protrudes inside the lips of the clamp is then removed by a pair of curved scissors or an ordinary scalpel. The clamp should afterwards be retained, still grasping the remnant of the pile, for about two minutes. If, after removing the clamp, there should be a slight oozing from any point of the fringed remnant, this may readily be arrested by the application of the torsion-forceps or a fine ligature (this process is, of course, to be repeated according to the number of masses to be got rid of). The dressing employed after the operation is completed is usually tarred cotton, or that prepared with salicylic acid, with warm bathing. The manufacturers are Messrs. C. Wright and Co., surgical instrument makers, 108, New Bond Street, London.

**THE GROWTH OF THE HUMAN BODY.**—At the last meeting of the Statistical Society, Mr. Dawson, in a paper bearing this title, gave the results of statistics he had collected from the records relating to the height and weight of prisoners in the Borough Gaol of Liverpool during three periods—viz., from 1857 to 1858, from 1867 to 1868, and from 1877 to 1878. The general inference was that the men thus passed under examination did not on the average attain their full height or their full weight much, if at all, before thirty years of age. The most general—indeed, the only common—use of such inquiries was, of course, a military one. The popular notion, he said, was that the age of twenty-one was that at which men arrived at maturity; but this was erroneous, and for lack of sound statistics he believed we had long been practising, in regard to our army, etc., with most precious material, a most unsound economy.

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1881.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1881 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, 161A, Strand, London. Post Office Orders should be made payable at the West Central District Office, High Holborn.

## The British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1881.

### MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

THE necessary connection between medical practice and pharmacy renders it advisable, from time to time, to watch any changes which may occur, or be attempted, on the part of the Pharmaceutical Society. Professedly, that Society was established to improve the qualification of the dispenser of medicine; it was encouraged in that effort by many leading members of the medical profession, who saw that the advance of what has been called "pure practice"—*i.e.*, the separation of prescribing from preparing medicine—would be facilitated by the greater dependence on chemists. That such a result has arisen, we are bound to admit; and, now that no man can hold himself forth as a "chemist and druggist" unless he has been duly examined and registered, prescribers have not the anxiety they formerly had as to the accuracy of the dispensing, and the quality of the medicines necessary for their patients.

We are led to these remarks by the perusal of the draft of a Bill which the Pharmaceutical Society proposes to submit to Parliament for the amendment of the Pharmacy Acts already in force.

The first proposition contained therein is to secure some further power to regulate the examinations: not, apparently, to alter the subjects on which candidates are to be tested; but, as we are informed, to enable the Society to enforce passing the "preliminary examination" at the very threshold. Inasmuch as the preliminary has regard only to primary education, and has been given in charge to the College of Preceptors, this is clearly a move in the right direction; it would secure young men of better education, in the first instance, and leave their period of pupilage more available for the acquirement of the technical knowledge necessary for a careful dispenser.

When the Pharmacy Act of 1868 was passed, due regard was held to vested interests; and it was provided that all men who had been in business on their own account prior to that date, might, on application and proper certificate, be registered as chemists and druggists. It is now proposed to close that door of admission after a period of two years, sufficient time having elapsed for all such men to preserve their rights.

The more important provisions of the Bill follow. In the first place, whereas, under the present law, the prohibition as to compounding only extends to medicines containing certain scheduled poisons, hereafter it is proposed to confine the right of dispensing all "medical prescriptions", whether they contain poison or not, to qualified men. Clearly it is of importance to a prescriber that his doses of medicine, whether enumerated in an arbitrary schedule or not, should be accurately administered; therefore, we see no objection to this. Perhaps some more definite words than "medical prescriptions" might be used.

Secondly, the Act of 1868 made a special exemption in favour of "patent medicines"; and although no person can buy laudanum, chloral, and other scheduled poisons, in their simple form, save under certain restrictions and safeguards, anybody may sell, and anybody may buy, the same dangerous articles, in the form of "patent medicines", without let or hindrance. As a result, coroners' inquests on persons killed by the improper use or abuse of them, have been frequent; and we believe the attention of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society