

owing to the action of moisture; and instead he advises the use of plaster-of-paris jackets. In paraplegia which is due to spinal caries, it is stated that the peronei and anterior tibial muscles are invariably affected. It is suggested that the term "railway spine" should be dropped and "traumatic neurosis" adopted in its place, this latter including the condition seen after railway accidents, gunshot wounds, severe mutilations, and shocks after falls. The chapter upon spina bifida contains a good deal that is interesting, but the very short chapter on non-congenital tumours in the vertebral region is very unsatisfactory. The illustrations are effective enough as diagrams, and serve to show the author's meaning, but they are not very suggestive of scientific accuracy.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Syllabus of Gynecology, based on the *American Textbook of Gynecology*. By J. W. LONG, M.D., Professor of Gynecology and Paediatrics in the Medical College of Virginia, etc. (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1895. Long cr. 8vo, pp. 133. 1 dollar.)—This will be a very useful help to students who take as their authoritative guide the *American Textbook of Gynecology*. It is a *précis*, or rather syllabus, of that book, which will help to fix the knowledge it contains in an orderly and exact way in the reader's mind. At the foot of each page is stated the page in the parent work to which the student may refer for amplification of his knowledge. It is interleaved with blank pages and is bound in a form convenient for the pocket. The only criticisms we should have to make were we questioned by students upon matters contained in it would apply to the work whence the information is taken, and this is not under our notice at present. With the reservation that the *American Textbook of Gynecology*, whatever its merits may be, is not a work the statements of which are final and decisive on every point, we think this book a very good one. Granting the excellence of the original, the model is as perfect as it could be.

La Distomatose Pulmonaire par la Douve du Foie. Par HILARIO DE GOUVÊA. (Paris: L. Bataille et Cie. 1895. Demy 8vo, pp. 46.)—The author records the case of a French naval officer, serving on the American Atlantic coast, latterly in Brazil, who after a trifling fever began to experience pain at the base of the left lung, associated with localised moist râles, cough, and slight hæmoptysis. The cough was spasmodic, and returned with the utmost regularity three times every day in severe paroxysms, each paroxysm being followed by hæmoptysis. During the third week of the illness the patient coughed up a living distome measuring 2 cm. by $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. The parasite was diagnosed distoma hepaticum, a diagnosis subsequently confirmed by Leuckart. This is the twenty-fourth recorded case of this form of distomiasis in man, and the first in which the parasite was lodged in the lungs. The author points out that it might be possible to arrive at a correct diagnosis by microscopic examination of sputum in any similar case, the eggs of the parasite being quite characteristic.

THE *Transactions of the American Dermatological Association*, 1894, contain the official report edited by Dr. C. W. Allen, of the proceedings of the eighteenth annual meeting held at Washington last May. It is copiously illustrated, and we may instance in particular a striking coloured drawing of a case of dermatitis hiemalis, recorded by Dr. Corlett, and a very realistic drawing of a most unusual case of symmetrical cutaneous atrophy of the extremities, placed on record by Dr. E. B. Bronson. Appended to the volume are statistical returns for the year 1893, showing the observed prevalence of certain forms of skin disease by various observers in different parts of the United States.

Manual for the Church Lads' Brigade Medical Staff Corps. Compiled from the *Manual of the Medical Staff Corps*. (London: Church Lads' Brigade. Cr. 16mo, pp. 74, two illustrations. 4d.)—This little manual is divided into two parts. In the first part, in very plain language, there is a brief de-

scription of the structure of the body and the mode of dealing with ordinary accidents. In the second there is a concise though complete account of the authorised stretcher drill and modes of moving the sick and injured. It concludes with a few details of the duties of medical officers and "ambulancers" in camp, at inspection, etc., which will be found useful to many.

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

A USEFUL COMBINATION INSTRUMENT.

MR. A. MARMADUKE SHIELD, M.B., F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, writes that boiling and disinfection is such an important part of every surgical operation, the fewer instruments that are used the better. As many new instruments err on the side of complication, it is hoped this one will present the example of simplicity combined with utility. A glance at the diagram will show that this little instrument may be used for the following purposes:

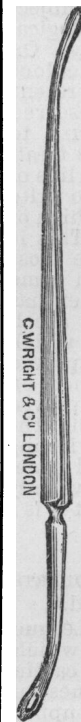
1. It is a separator, and as such may be employed to separate a vein from an artery, in the operation for varicocele or varicose veins, to "shell out" a sebaceous cyst, or to peel away vessels from an enlarged gland in the neck. Being provided with an "eye," it serves as an aneurysm needle, and may be used to "under-run" adhesions or vessels. A better instrument cannot be used for carrying a ligature through the pedicle of an ovarian cyst or a cancerous testis.

2. The probe end serves as a searcher for carious bone, foreign bodies, or gall stones, should an operation in the gall bladder be contemplated.

3. The probe terminates in a deeply grooved director, and thus the instrument may be used in external urethrotomy, for slitting up a fistula, or, especially, for dividing the stricture in hernia, the probe end of the director readily slipping into the abdomen past the constriction.

Indeed this simple instrument may be useful in almost any operation, and as it can be carried in an ordinary dressing case its especial advantage is obvious to country surgeons, and to those proceeding to the Colonies. It would be a valuable addition to the regulation case of army or ship surgeons.

Mr. Marmaduke Shield derived the primary idea of this instrument from the "separator" used by those who operate upon the cord and brain for peeling away the membranes. A "separator" is used by physiologists, and Mr. Treves has employed this in surgery. The instrument is made by Wright and Co., 103, Bond Street, London.



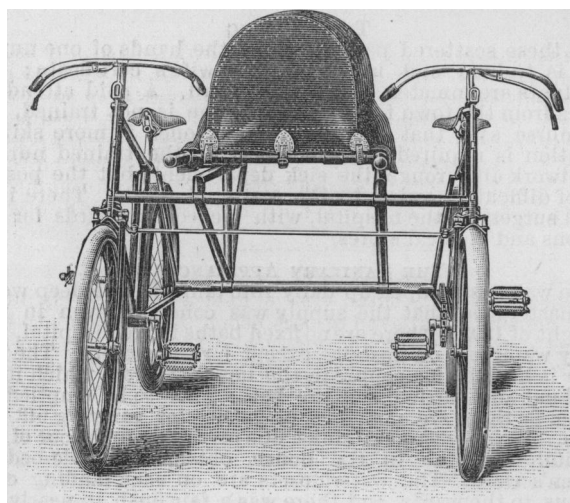
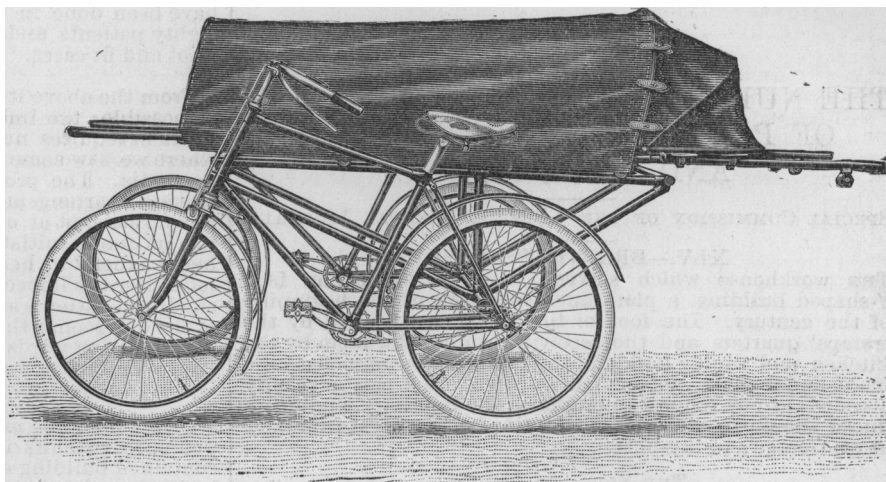
THE STANDARD MALT EXTRACT.

EXTRACT of malt is obtained by evaporating an infusion of malt. The evaporation of the infusion requires great care, and to succeed in retaining unchanged the dissolved albuminoids and diastase, the evaporation should be conducted at a temperature of 120° F. The value of an extract of malt is estimated by the amount of diastase present, and as good malted barley is tolerably uniform in diastase, a well-prepared extract should be but little, if at all, inferior in diastatic power to the malt from which it is made.

We have received from the Standard Malt Extract Company, Limited, 23, Billiter Street, E.C., a sample of malt extract, and also of malt extract with cod-liver oil. The standard malt extract has a pleasant flavour, possesses high diastatic power, and evidently is carefully prepared. The malt extract with cod-liver oil is an excellent preparation, the oil is very well blended with the extract, and the taste gives only a faint suspicion of its presence.

CYCLE AMBULANCES.

In many large mines and workshops where accidents are liable frequently to occur it is the custom to keep a horse and ambulance always ready in case of need. The expense of this is considerable, and it may often happen that some delay occurs in getting off. The substitution of a well-designed ambulance, carried on a cycle attachment, would often be a great saving of expense and some saving of time in that the cycle would always be instantly ready, and when roads were good, that is to say when of well-laid macadam, wood, or asphalt, the injured person would be conveyed more smoothly and with, if anything, less jolting than in a horse ambulance. We are indebted to Mr. William T. Smedley, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund, for the accompanying illustrations of a cycle ambulance which the Fund has recently presented to the city of Birmingham. The ambulance has been made by the Alldays and Onions Pneumatic Engineering Company (Great Western Works, Birmingham, and 15, Sherborne Lane, London, E.C.). Its general construction will be easily understood from an inspection of the accompanying drawings. It consists of a frame carrying a hooded detachable stretcher, supported between two bicycles, the whole forming a quadricycle, having a good balance on a wide base, so that the liability to overturning is small. The apparatus is made throughout of welded steel tube, and is fitted with pneumatic tyres. The advantages claimed for the cycle ambu-

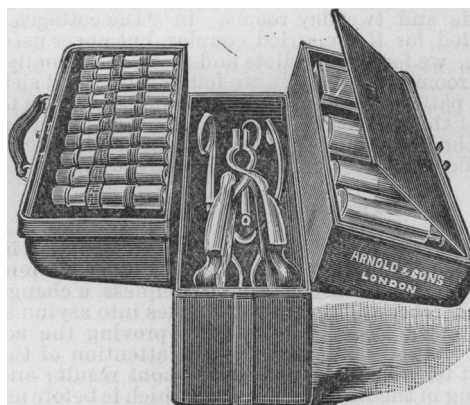


lance, in addition to the diminished cost of up-keep, are that it is much lighter, more compact, and more convenient to handle than the wooden ambulances; that, owing to its simplicity of construction, even a person who has never ridden a cycle before can manage it, and that on the whole it affords a speedy, light, and most comfortable mode of conveying injured persons to hospital. The stretcher being detachable the patient can be removed on it to his bed without disturbance.

AN IMPROVED COMPACT MIDWIFERY BAG.

Messrs. Arnold and Sons, of West Smithfield, E.C., have made a new form of midwifery bag to which they have given the name "Compactum," on the ground that it is the most portable bag yet made. The bag, which when closed has a neat appearance, measures $10 \times 8\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, but contains within this space in the central lower part or base

a pair of Barnes's long forceps with metal folding handles, craniotomy forceps and perforator to fit into the same handles, a blunt hook and crotchet (jointed), frænum scissors, and female catheter. All the instruments are nickel-plated. The two sides of the bag, which, as shown in the drawing, open outwards, contain on the one side bottles of tabloids (Burrroughs and Wellcome's) of a number of useful drugs (ergotine, anti-pyridin, chloral hydrate, Warburg's tinc-



ture, opium, ammonium carbonate, perchloride of mercury, chlorodyne, permanganate of potassium). On the other side a hypodermic case with silver-plated syringe, two needles, and a series of hypodermic tabloids, which appear to have been carefully selected for general convenience. There is also a stoppered bottle for chloroform, and tubes of lanocreoline and hazeline cream. The price of the bag fitted complete is £6 15s.

A SPLINT FOR FRACTURE OF THE PATELLA.

DR. W. EDELSTEN BRACEY (Birmingham) writes: It is with pleasure I have read Dr. W. M. Russell's letter in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of March 30th with reference to the patella splint I wrote about in your columns on March 9th, for my object in writing about it was to draw forth criticism.

Now, Dr. Russell says that equal force is applied to both the upper and lower fragments of the patella when my splint is applied. In actual practice this is not the case, for the lower hoop of the knee apparatus comes in contact with the tuberosities of the tibia and the force exerted on the lower fragment is so trivial as only to hold it in place, and counteract the effect of gravity; on the other hand the force exerted on the upper fragment is the full force applied from the foot-piece, and the effect of this force on the patella can be governed to a nicety not only by the thumbscrews on the foot-piece, but by the adjustment of the intervening distance between the hoops.

By this method I obtained a very satisfactory result in a stout old woman suffering from the early stages of delirium tremens, and in whom there was excessive extravasation into the joint. I am sorry that my absolute ignorance of the salient points in Mr. Wheeler's invention, of which I was previously unaware, prevent my discussing a difference between the two splints. I shall be very pleased to send Dr. Russell an apparatus should he care to examine it himself.

THE annual dinner of the Pharmaceutical Society will take place at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on May 21st, at 6.45 for 7 P.M.