

African quagga, and scores of other animals and birds. Athletics and boisterous games are an outlet which prevent the excesses of "hooliganism." In regard to education he thinks the characteristics of sex should be guarded. "The familiar camaraderie which ignores sex should be left to the agenic class." In one part of the work he quotes numerous instances of great men who have been considered dull or dawdling as children. Such instances may perhaps be admitted as constituting one of many reasons for not encouraging mental precocity by surrounding it with too studious an atmosphere, or by allowing it to run riot and possibly to ruin from too great or too exclusive mental exercise.

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE tenth volume of the *Transactions of the Dermatological Society of Great Britain and Ireland*<sup>1</sup> contains an interesting paper on small-pox in the United States by Dr. W. T. Corlett, of Cleveland, Ohio, illustrated by twelve good plates from photographs. It is worthy of note that the United States, with all their up-to-datedness, should still suffer from preventable epidemics of small-pox. As a nation they are in this respect not more advanced than we are. The volume contains a number of cases of more or less rare diseases of the skin. Altogether the book shows that the Society is active and doing good work.

In our notice of the thirty-fourth annual edition of the *City of London Directory*<sup>2</sup> last year we reviewed at considerable length the special features of this work; it is unnecessary, therefore, to refer to them in detail in connexion with the issue for 1905, which has just appeared. It is a most valuable directory and work of reference for all those who have dealings with business houses, corporations, and public and other institutions which either conduct their operations in the City or are otherwise directly or indirectly connected with it. An addition to the information usually given which may be picked out as especially useful are nominal lists of all the Committees of the London County Council. So far as we are aware, they are not published officially elsewhere; and in view of the importance of the work for which these committees are responsible, it is desirable to have at hand complete information as to their composition. Unlike others, this directory habitually appears in March, and the changes which are so common about Christmas time therefore receive adequate attention.

## DIETETIC PREPARATIONS AND MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

*Pioneer Milk Sugar.*—We have received a sample of the Pioneer Milk Sugar and a pamphlet from the proprietors dealing with the question of infant feeding. It is claimed that with the use of this sugar a quart of "humanized" milk can be prepared for the low sum of sixpence. As the preparation advised contains nearly 50 per cent. of pure water we are not greatly impressed with the lowness of the cost. The advantages of milk sugar over those more commonly in use should be obvious and acknowledged to justify the increase of cost arising from its adoption. Some authors state that during digestion milk sugar is converted into lactic acid, whilst during the same process cane sugar is partially converted into alcohol and carbonic acid. Others, again, assert that certain intestinal bacteria flourish better in the presence of cane than in that of milk sugar. Granting these contentions, however, the advantages of the use of milk over that of cane sugar have not been so obvious and incontestable in actual practice as to lead to its habitual adoption except by a limited few. The composition, again, of many of the so-called "humanized" milks varies widely. In the present pamphlet we are advised to prepare it by taking 1 pint of fresh cow's milk, 1 pint of water, 4 tablespoonfuls of Pioneer Milk Sugar, and 1 tablespoonful of separated or 4 tablespoonfuls of skim cream, and mixing them together. Now the compositions of separated cream and skim or gravity cream, as ordinarily purchased, vary within wide limits, and the fat percentage of

the latter may exceed that of the former, or vice versa. It follows, then, that the fat percentage of the food advised—an important element—is altogether vague and indefinite. For this last reason, if for no others, the food advocated might prove an inappropriate one for many infants. The pamphlet is largely filled with quotations from medical writers. We trust, then, that it has only been circulated amongst members of the profession, and, even in this case, that the authority of the writers quoted has been obtained for the use of their names.

*An Improved Form of Closet.*—The annexed engravings illustrate the Kataphysical Health Closet, shown by Professor Chiene, C.B., at the February meeting of the Edinburgh Branch of the British Medical Association. It is intended to enable both adults and children comfortably to assume during defecation the physiological position naturally adopted by men in the fields. This is effected (1) by placing the seat in each case at the right height from the spot on which the feet rest, while at the same time keeping the whole height of the closet at that which is in common use; (2) by making both the pan and the lid-seats narrow anteriorly like a bicycle

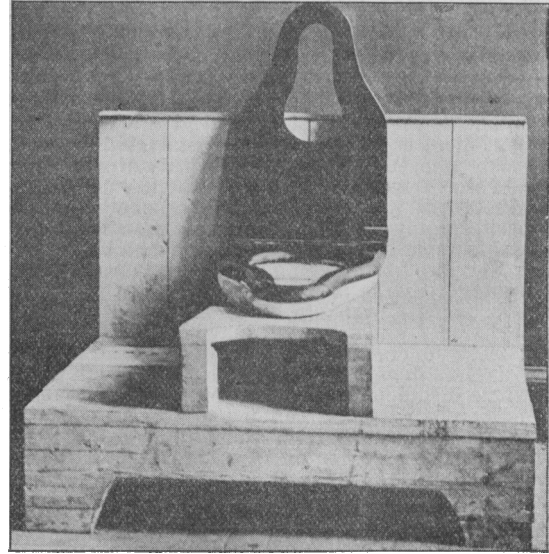


Fig. 1.

saddle, so that the thighs may be drawn well back. The apparatus consists (a) of a pan and two lid-seats, the upper and smaller for the use of children, the lower and larger for that of adults. Both can be raised, and the basin used as a urinal. (b) Of two cement platforms, of which the lower is 9 in. high and the upper 6 in. high. The lower platform, it is to be noted, is only necessary in order to raise the whole adult apparatus to the height of 18 in.—that in common use. Its existence, however, is otherwise advantageous, in that being undercut a person using the w.c. as a urinal can place his feet in the recess and stand close up to the basin. During defecation the

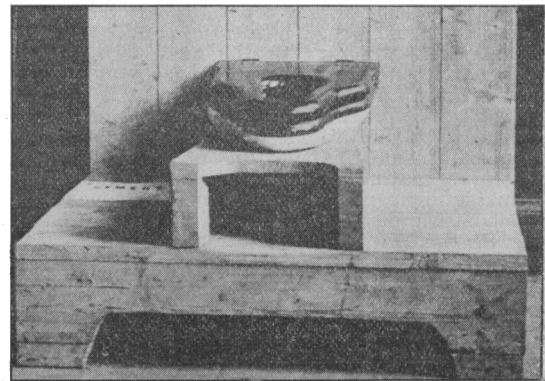


Fig. 2.

feet of the adult rest at each side of the basin and on the top of this lower platform, the distance from the adult lid-seat to the latter being 9 in. (Fig. 1). Similarly the feet of the child rest on

<sup>1</sup> *Transactions of the Dermatological Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1904-5, Vol. X. London: H. K. Lewis, 1904. (8vo, pp. 96, 17 plates, 5s.)  
<sup>2</sup> *The City of London Directory for 1905*. London: W. H. and L. Collingridge. (Demy 8vo, pp. 1198, 128, 6d.)