

NOTES ON BOOKS.

COLLOQUIAL PORTUGUESE.

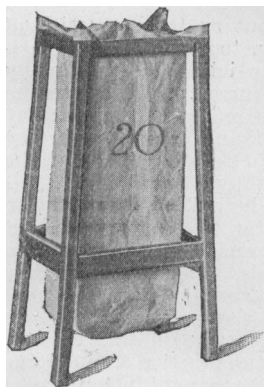
PORTUGUESE is a language which—at all events, colloquially—is not within the compass of the ordinary Englishman, who is thus constrained to take refuge in a phrasebook when in linguistic difficulties. The famous *English as She is Spoke* aimed at supplying this need, but though ministering not a little to the traveller's amusement, it can scarcely be said to have been a reliable work for the carrying on of conversation. Mr. DA CUNHA'S *Portuguese Self-taught*¹ is a little book of very different kind, a useful collection of vocabularies and conversations with an outline of the grammar. It is well up to date with cycle, motor, and photographic word-lists, and easily slips in the pocket. A somewhat deficient part, perhaps, is that allotted to the doctor's visit, but fortunately Portugal is a healthy country.

VENESECTION.

In his elaborate and rather ponderous essay on blood-letting,² Dr. STRUBELL discusses the present scope of blood-letting as a therapeutical method, and criticizes the contributions that have been made on this subject in the course of the past quarter of a century. In the first part he deals with the latest views on the indications of this time-honoured plan of treatment in uraemia and other forms of auto-intoxication, and also in chlorosis, and then proceeds to a detailed review of the results of modern experimental research, in which he has taken a considerable share, on the effects of blood-letting on the composition and properties of the blood, and on the relative proportions of its corpuscular elements. A final section is devoted to a careful consideration of the action of venesection in the treatment of heart disease and other circulatory disturbances. Dr. Strubell, as is shown by a dozen closely-printed pages of bibliographical references and by lengthy records of experimental work, has studied his subject very fully, but to English readers the result of all this work will, it must be confessed, be found confusing and void of much practical interest.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

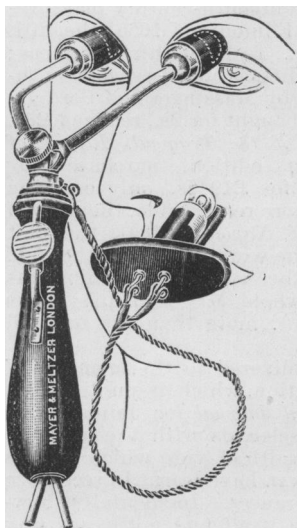
Sanatorium Furniture.—Messrs. Heal and Son have on exhibition at 196, Tottenham Court Road, a set of bedroom furniture made by them for use in the rooms to be occupied by patients in the King Edward VII Sanatorium for Consumption, which is now approaching completion at Midhurst, Sussex. The furniture is made of birch, varnished,



and special attention has been given to round off all corners, both internal and external, which might afford chances for the accumulation of dust, and to mount all the articles of furniture on legs, so that it may be possible to clean the floor under them. The bedstead, which is of iron enamelled in a light green, is of simple form, protruding castings being avoided where possible and riveted joints used; rubber shod buffers at the head prevent the bedstead being pushed against the wall, and also act as handles in moving it about; large leather-tired castors are fitted at the head end and leather pads at the other. The bedstead is fitted with a Taunton "Di-ag-nl" spring mattress and an ordinary hair mattress. The other articles of furniture in the room are a wardrobe, combined dressing-table and chest of drawers, a washstand, bed-stand, a chair, and a soiled linen stand and bag which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing; the stand is of the same wood as the rest of the furniture, and the bag, of coarse holland, can be lifted off with its contents ready for the laundry; as it bears a distinguishing number, the emptying and redocketing necessary with the usual lockers and baskets will be avoided. The wardrobe has a flat circular top, and the corners in this and in all drawers are rounded off. The washstand and dressing table have opaline glass tops and the bedstand is ventilated. At the back of the washstand is a sheet of plate-

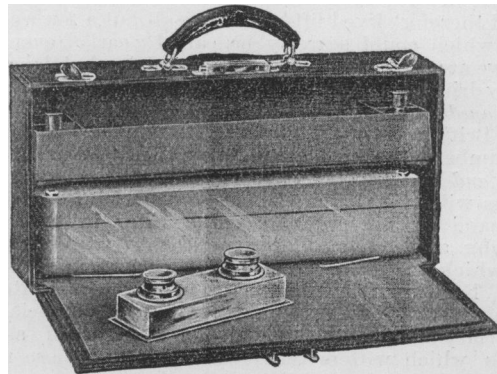
glass running in grooves. For the floor an all-wool washing rug is provided, and each room will also have a wicker lounge deck chair with extending foot. Birchwood varnished has been selected in preference to enamelled white wood because it is expected to stand rough usage better. The furniture is well designed throughout to attain the primary objects in view, which are to leave as few surfaces and corners as possible in which dust can accumulate, and to make every part of each piece, as well as the floor under, easy to clean thoroughly. The general effect is clean, light, and even artistic. Messrs. Heal have of course been strictly limited in price, but, with a little latitude in this, furniture might be designed on the same principle which would satisfy every demand of the aesthetic sense. In fact, if we are to accept the dictum that an essential element in good art is suitability to purpose, then furniture constructed on these principles ought, as the public mind becomes educated to understand the sweet reasonableness of the purpose, to be recognized as truly artistic. Much of the Jacobean furniture for sitting rooms really fulfilled the principles after which we are now searching, and no furniture exceeds it in the beauty of its dignified simplicity.

Illumination of Frontal Sinuses.—Mr. Arthur Roberts, Aural Surgeon, Royal Berks Hospital, writes: The accompanying illustration depicts an instrument recently made for me by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer of Great Portland Street, and is so very clear that little explanation is necessary. I have frequently desired to illuminate the two frontal sinuses and the antra at the same moment, and this the little instrument does most perfectly, permitting an easy comparison between the various cavities. As can be seen, the mouthpiece is attached to a short piece of flexible wire, and can be immersed in any disinfecting solution. When placed in the mouth the hand is left free to apply the two frontal lights, which, it will be noticed, are carried on movable arms. A switch controls the light, allowing all three lamps to be illuminated, or the one on the



mouthpiece, or those at the ends of the two arms alone. I have found it a very handy instrument.

A Midwifery or Operating Case with Sterilizer.—Having experienced the need of a suitable case not only to contain midwifery forceps and other instruments, etc., but a sterilizer of suitable size for all instruments, Dr. S. Backwell Fenn has had a bag made which fulfils all these requirements. As shown in the accompanying engraving



it consists of a black cowhide case with a linen canvas lining and nickel-plated fittings. The case is divided into two compartments, the upper holding a tray with four divisions for bottles, and a central one for instruments, dressings, etc. In the lower compartment there is a nickel-plated sterilizer, in which is easily packed a good spirit lamp, forceps, or other large instruments. The ready access to every compartment makes it a convenient as well as a compact case for the busy practitioner. It has been made at Dr. Fenn's suggestion by Messrs. Billings and Sons, 41, Oxford Street, Manchester.

¹ *Portuguese Self-taught.* (Marlborough's Self-taught Series.) By E. Da Cunha. London: E. Marlborough and Co., 51, Old Bailey, E.C. 1905. (Sm. 8vo, pp. 120. 2s. 6d.)

² *Der Aderlass. Eine Monographische Studie.* By Dr. Alexander Strubell. Berlin: August Hirschwald. 1905. (Demy 8vo, pp. 179. M.5.)