

their predecessor's best energies are spent in combating ennui," is not contained in the original. May I also inform your well-instructed and humorous critic that I have the authority of Herbert Spencer and others for the assertion that some tribes practise patricide. Again, I may assure your critic that the sentence, "it is the scope of intelligence to bring to bear on a momentary impulse that strives for realization some antagonistic impulses that for the moment are non-existent" is quite comprehensible to average mortals—even to those who are not endowed with his subtle intelligence. On the whole, I must compliment your contributor on his discovery of a new procedure in the reviewing of books, which apparently does not necessitate the understanding of the book one is to give his opinion on.

** The sentence "It is spiritless and empty," etc., was not put in quotation marks, and does not pretend to be a quotation *in extenso*. Dr. Harris's words (p. 181) are: "Society . . . is not all it should be . . . Society at present is spiritless and empty, devoid of all the generous impulses and noble aspirations that distinguished their predecessors. Their best energies are spent in combating the ennui following on their aimless, purposeless life." It will be seen that, though every word was not quoted, and no pretence was made of quoting every word, the sense was not misrepresented, and the insertion of the missing words does not render the grammar correct. No doubt was thrown on Dr. Harris's statement that some tribes practise patricide. All that was suggested was that Patrick should be warned of the regions so dangerous to him. It is well to know, on Dr. Harris's authority, that that which does not exist can be brought to bear on what does exist. We did not question the truth of the statement, but expressed our difficulty in understanding the mechanism; but as it now appears that average mortals can understand it, we must confess to not being average. We did our best to understand *The Significance of Existence*, and as it seems that we have failed, we trust Dr. Harris will put the failure down to the deficiency of our intelligence, and not to the demerit of the book.

MEDICINAL AND DIETETIC ARTICLES.

Formitrol Pastilles.

FORMALDEHYDE, in the form of its solid polymer para-formaldehyde, has found wide application as a local anaesthetic for the mouth and throat, and formitrol pastilles, supplied by Messrs. A. Wander, Limited (London, E.C.), contain each $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of formaldehyde with menthol and citric acid and a base which only dissolves slowly if not chewed, so that prolonged local action of the aldehyde is assured; each is enclosed in a tinfoil sheath to prevent loss of the medicament on keeping. The pastilles bear no brand and are not, we are informed, advertised to the public.

Pepto-Mangan (Gude).

The presentation of iron in assimilable form in cases of chlorosis has been attempted in many ways, both organic and inorganic compounds being utilized for the purpose; in Pepto-Mangan (Gude) iron and manganese are combined with organic matter in such a way that they are not precipitated from the solution by alkalis, and it is claimed that by the use of such a compound of both these metals, most satisfactory results are obtained. A sample of this preparation submitted by Messrs. T. Christy and Co., who are the London agents, consisted of a brown neutral liquid, free from astringency and with a slight aromatic flavour; after the organic matter had been destroyed by ignition, iron and manganese were found to be present in considerable quantity.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

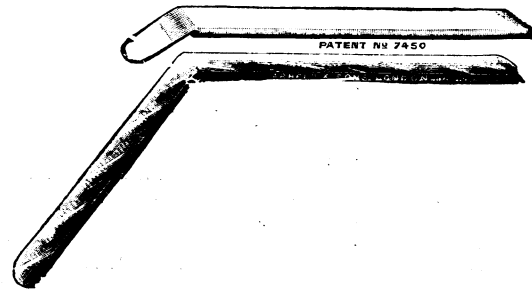
A Noise Silencer.

SIR RONALD ROSS sends us a short account of an ear clip he designed some twenty years ago for a patient who was susceptible to noise. It is designed to close the tragus of one or both ears in such a manner as to exclude slight noises without preventing access of all sound to the ear. It consists of a curved metal spring, jointed in the centre for portability, and provided at each end with a button, which presses lightly against the tragus or other part of the ear. It is manufactured by Messrs. Charles Baker, 244, High Holborn, London, W.C., and it is suggested that it may also be useful in the treatment of nervous maladies. When lying down with one ear closed by a pillow, the button on that side can be placed in the hollow between the ramus of the jaw and the mastoid, where it causes no

discomfort. It is suggested further that it may be worn with advantage by those employed in big gun or rifle practice.

Envelope for Tongue Depressors.

Dr. DONALD MURRAY (Stornoway) writes: Medical inspection of school children has its own problems, and one of these is the efficient examination of the throat without the risk of carrying infection from one to the other by the tongue depressor. Boiling or steaming the instrument is in nearly all cases impracticable. Disinfection by chemicals has many disadvantages. To obviate these a great number of medical officers use wooden depressors which are burnt immediately after use. This is a safer and cleaner method than by the use of one common depressor for all, whatever the disinfectant employed. Wood, however, has also its disadvantages—it is too bulky; it is not pure white and so does not reflect the light; where there are no open fires, and in summer when there are no fires at all, there is a practical difficulty in getting them burnt. A very simple expedient, and one which has several good



points in its favour, has been placed on the market by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, London. It consists of an envelope, made of specially prepared paper, which fits on to an angular depressor. The portion applied to the tongue is of double thickness, so that there can be no risk of organisms passing through. At the proximate (open) end there is a tab on which the finger rests to steady the envelope. This also serves as a catch by which to pull off the envelope after use, thus preventing any portion which has been in the mouth coming in contact with the medical officer's fingers. The small amount of room they occupy in the wallet, the enhanced illumination of the throat by the white paper, the facility with which the envelopes can be burnt and disposed of, together with efficiency in preventing throat to throat infection, should make this little contrivance a most useful item in the school medical officer's outfit. The same advantages will also commend it to the general practitioner.

The eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry will be held at Washington and New York in September. The Congress is under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the United States. Among the papers to be read in the Section of Physiological Chemistry and Pharmacology are the following: Howard S. Reed, Ph.D., "The Enzyme Activities Involved in Certain Plant Diseases;" Reid Hunt, M.D., "Physiological Action of some New Compounds of the Choline Type;" G. A. Menge, Ph.D., "Some New Compounds of the Choline Type;" Atherton Seidell, Ph.D., "Comparative Solubility Studies on Thymol and Certain Other Vermifuges;" W. H. Schultz, Ph.D., "Pharmacological Action of Proteins and Some of their Derivates;" C. C. Guthrie, M.D., "A Comparative Study of the Action of Solutions on the Preservation of the Vitality of Tissues;" Arthur S. Loevenhart, M.D., "Further Observations on the Action of Oxidizing Substances;" W. N. Berg, Ph.D., "The Physico-chemical Basis of Muscle Contraction: A Critical Review;" Jacob Rosenbloom, M.D., "Chemical and Pharmacological Studies of Human Duodenal Contents;" George W. Crile, M.D., "Neuro-cytological Changes Resulting from the Administration of Certain Drugs;" Joseph L. Miller, M.D., "Physiological Action of the Various Anatomical Components of the Hypophysis;" J. A. E. Eyster, M.D., "The Relation of Calcium to the Inhibitory Mechanism of the Heart;" Atherton Seidell, Ph.D., "The Comparative Estimation of Epinephrine in Suprarenal Glands and in its Solutions Physiologically and by Colour Tests;" Walter Jones, Ph.D., "Some New Phases of the Nuclein Fermentation;" Charles Baskerville, Ph.D., "Inhalation Anaesthetics;" Oswald Schreiner, Ph.D., "The Physiological Rôle of Organic Constituents in Plant Metabolism."