

Notes on Books

The 7th edition of Dr. PALUEL J. FLAGG'S *The Art of Anaesthesia* (J. B. Lippincott Company; 36s.) is a dogmatic, and therefore valuable, presentation of the subject, in a style redolent of the author's forceful personality. Brief descriptions are included of new anaesthetics and methods, but the author maintains with vigour that, because ether is the safest anaesthetic known, skill in its administration should be the first concern of every anaesthetist.

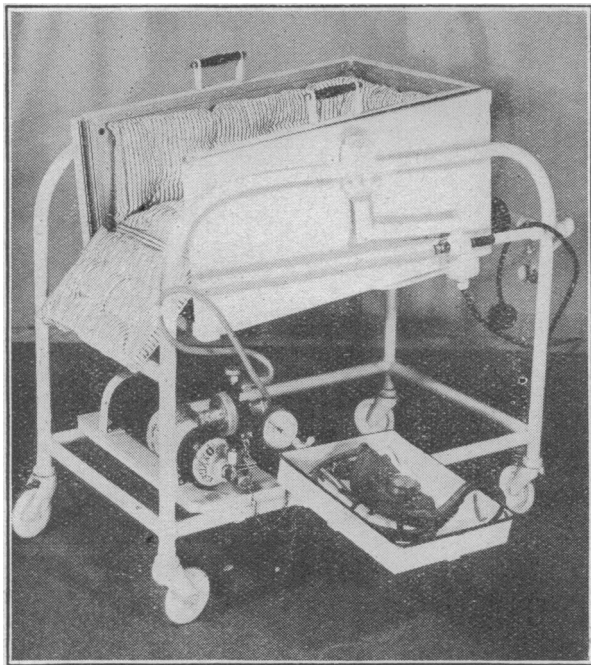
A new pamphlet entitled *Making Work Lighter*, the sixth of the series of Lighting Reconstruction Pamphlets, has been issued by the Illuminating Engineering Society, 32, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. With comic illustrations in colour by Fougasse it differs in style from the preceding ones, and is intended primarily for distribution to all concerned with industrial lighting. The price is 6d. a copy.

Preparations and Appliances

A NEW ELECTRICALLY HEATED BABY'S COT

There has recently been put into service, at the Middlesex Hospital Maternity Department, an improved type of electrically heated cot. A feature of this cot is that the heating element is thermostatically controlled so that the temperature of the mattress and the bedding can be maintained at a uniform predetermined level, anywhere within the range of 60°-120° F.

The cot consists of two rectangular-shaped metal boxes placed one inside the other, both suitably flanged so as to form an adequate air space in which the heating element and thermostat are housed. The inside box is provided with ventilation holes in such positions as to ensure that a continuous current of warm air flows to the specially designed mattress, also box-shaped, which rests on a miniature bed spring. To prevent the mattress becoming scorched through contact with the metal, the cot is lined with heat-insulating material.



The "head" ends of both boxes are fitted with removable slides which permit of the baby being resuscitated by means of intubation, using the Gibberd and Blaikley apparatus, or having such treatment as may be necessary without its being lifted out of the cot or being otherwise subjected to a change of temperature.

The cot is attached to a trolley by means of two bearings, which incorporate the well-known Middlesex tilting device. The trolley is equipped with four ball-bearing castors, a rack for an oxygen cylinder, and a small tray for instruments. When not in use the tray, which is mounted on a pivoted stand, can be tucked away underneath the cot.

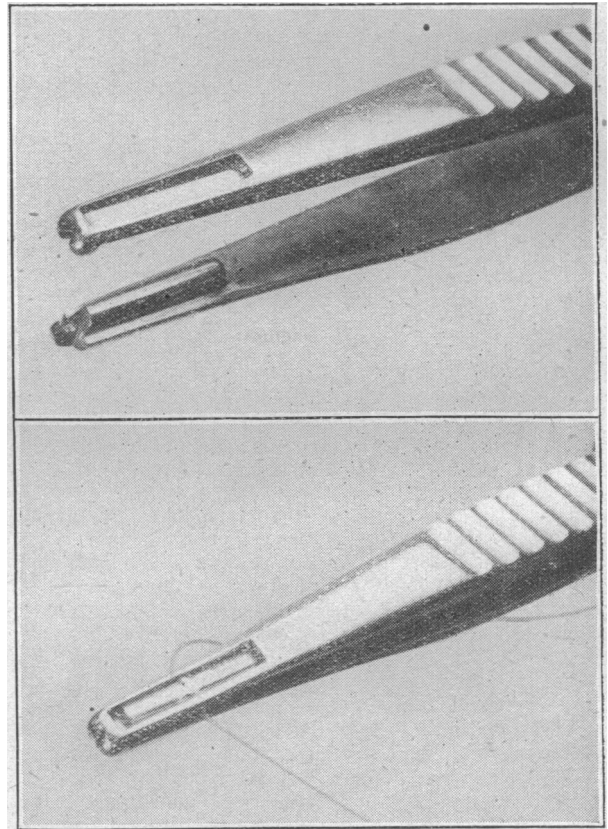
The apparatus, which was designed by Miss M. Williams, sister-in-charge of the maternity department, was constructed in the Middlesex Hospital workshops. The photograph shows the trolley with the cot "head" end removed.

NEW DISSECTING FORCEPS FOR "NO-TOUCH" TECHNIQUE

Major JOHN CHARNLEY, R.A.M.C., writes from the Orthopaedic Department, Shaftesbury Military Hospital:

Few dissecting forceps will grip suture material positively enough to make them suitable for tying knots in "no-touch" technique. The heavy finger pressure often needed soon tires the surgeon's fingers, and in some forceps the jaws may even open again and release the suture if excessive pressure be used.

The transverse serrations found behind the terminal teeth of an ordinary pair of toothed dissecting forceps are really of very little value in holding tissues; the efficiency of such an instrument depends on the design of the terminal teeth. When used in an attempt to tighten a knot the transverse striations lie parallel to the line of pull and thus allow the suture to slide and probably lacerates it, if it is soft catgut.



When the forceps illustrated are used as tissue forceps they work quite naturally on their terminal teeth; when used to tie a knot the suture is trapped in the fenestrum by the projection on the opposing blade. The suture material is therefore made to execute four right-angle bends within the grip of the jaws.

In practice the instrument holds wet catgut as delicately and powerfully as could be wished. It holds all other suture materials well, whether wet or dry, and is outstanding in performance with nylon. The best results are achieved when the habit has been learnt of deliberately seizing the suture some distance behind the point to ensure that it is well held in the trap. The soundness of the grip under the lightest finger pressure is impressive.

The present model is built on sturdy lines because it was essentially designed for bone work, but doubtless Messrs. Downs Bros., who have so easily surmounted the difficulties of the original design, could make others on a lighter scale.

Watson and Sons (Electro-Medical) Ltd., whose temporary head office is 76, Castle Street, Reading, have issued a leaflet on a new apparatus for the location of foreign bodies in the eye, which was developed in conjunction with Group Captain J. F. Bromley, consultant in radiology to the R.A.F. A full description of the apparatus appeared in the *Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society*, Vol. LXIII, "An Apparatus for Localizing Foreign Bodies in the Orbit," by J. F. Bromley and T. Keith Lyle.