

Ovarian Tumours.—Dr. LLOYD ROBERTS showed two multilocular ovarian tumours of the pseudo-colloid variety, which he had successfully removed during the last month; also a specimen of encephaloid disease of the ovary which he had operated upon the previous week by abdominal section.

Displacement of the Lens.—Dr. GLASCOTT showed for Dr. Samelson various cases of displacement of the lens. In one instance, the transparent lens, having before repeatedly prolapsed into the anterior chamber and thence been dislodged by atropine and the recumbent posture, has now for upwards of a year been kept *in situ* by the systematic employment of the Calabar wafer. The occurrence, without premonitory symptoms, of dislocation into the vitreous body in a couple of instances of unilateral cataract, was considered to be suggestive of a plea for undelayed extraction in cases of one-sided cataract.

Absence of Iris.—Dr. SAMELSON related a fourth case of congenital aniridia which had come under his notice (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1863, ii, p. 495; and 1869, i, p. 26). B. W., an Irish girl, aged 26, is affected with moderate bilateral microphthalmus. Both eyes are the seat of chalky-looking, irregular-shaped cataracts, the first trace of which is said to have been perceived when she was eight years old. Total illumination shows both eyes to be destitute of an iris, and either of them is just equal to distinguishing fingers at about two feet distance.

Small-Pox.—Dr. HADDON read a paper giving an account of a late epidemic of small-pox in Eccles, in which he stated that between the months of May and November 2 per cent. of the inhabitants suffered from the disease, and of those who had been vaccinated in infancy only 5 per cent. died, whereas those unprotected gave a mortality of 58 per cent. Dr. Haddon drew the following practical conclusions respecting the temperature and pulse, from the cases which he had had under his care. 1. In favourable cases, the pulse and temperature run nearly in parallel lines; and when the pulse continues to rise with a stable or falling temperature, the prognosis is very grave. 2. The longer the duration of the primary fever, the more severe will be the attack; and if it last beyond the fourth day, there will certainly be danger. 3. A high temperature in the primary fever does not indicate a severe case any more than a low temperature indicates a mild case. 4. The quicker and the lower the temperature falls after the primary fever has ceased, the more favourable is the prognosis; and the slower and the less it falls, it is so much the more serious in significance. 5. The very slight and some of the fatal cases have no secondary fever; but, in those which have this fever, the sooner it sets in the better is the prognosis.

Dr. RANSOME read the first half of a contribution on the Mechanical Conditions of the Respiratory Movements.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

PILLISCHER'S NEW STUDENT'S MICROSCOPE.

The microscope is becoming every year a more familiar and necessary instrument for medical education and clinical practice. Improvements in the instrument are, therefore, of great professional interest. A new model by an excellent maker is before us—Pillischer's St. Thomas's Hospital microscope. This instrument is of a most convenient size for the medical student, or, as a clinical microscope, for the wards of a hospital. It is made upon the model first adopted, we believe, by the late Mr. Andrew Ross, and consists of two dark bronze uprights and tripod-stand, with rack and fine adjustments, and stage suitable for clinical work and large enough for dissecting upon; eye-piece and quarter-inch object-glass, of 80 deg. aperture. The whole instrument is well made; the rack is so good that the one-eighth inch can be focussed by it with ease, without making use of the fine adjustment. The cost is £5. With such good and cheap instruments as these, English students need not go to foreign makers, especially as the English instrument forms the basis of a perfect microscope. For fifteen shillings extra, a mechanical stage can be added, consisting of levers, having an action similar to the movements of a parallel ruler, which is so easy of adjustment that it can be worked under the eighth-inch objective with the hands—a great advantage in a clinical microscope. The whole of the additions, to make the instrument complete—viz., binocular arrangement, one-inch objective live box, bull's-eye condenser, polarising apparatus, and mahogany case—can be had for a

further sum of £9 16s.; or, if bought with the microscope, the cost of the whole, including the microscope and quarter-inch, is £12 15s. The great features of the instrument are its good construction and its cheapness.

ROSS'S NEW IMMERSION-LENSES.

We are able to speak very highly of the performance of a new series of object-lenses, brought out by Messrs. Ross and Co., of Wigmore Street. They are made upon the curves of Mr. Wenham, a gentleman well known to the microscopic world; and are constructed upon the immersion plan, which is gaining ground in England. They can, however, be readily adjusted to work either wet or dry, without changing the cover. The powers are from the four-tenth to the one-twenty-fifth of an inch. The angles are much lower than in the older series of objectives, and consequently they will work through a much thicker glass cover: in fact, we were astonished to find that the fifteenth-inch objective was as easy and simple of adjustment as the old one-eighth inch. When the spot of water is introduced between the glass cover and the front lens, and the objective is adjusted for immersion, the object is shown with beautiful clearness, and with a great increase to the illumination.

REPORTS

ON THE

ORGANIC POLLUTION OF DRINKING WATERS.

VI.—PURIFICATION OF DRINKING WATER.

We have already described the striking effects of filtration—how an impure specimen of water may thereby be so purified from dissolved organic matter as to become as pure as the famous deep spring-water. We have now to detail the further progress of the investigation. The silicated carbon filter, which performed so admirably when new, has been submitted to a very severe course of treatment. A stream of ordinary London water has been allowed to run through it night and day for some time, and the performance of the filter again examined. This treatment has proved too severe for it, and it has to a great extent lost its activity; but, on free exposure to the atmosphere, it appears to be regaining its power. We shall, however report more decisively on this point as soon as our experiments are sufficiently advanced. In the meantime, it is of immediate practical consequence to warn people against using small filters continuously night and day.

Here it will not be out of place to mention Mr. Condy's method of purifying water by the use of permanganates, which, as is well known, act by oxidising the organic impurities. No doubt Condy's fluid is most efficient under certain circumstances, and no doubt when *boiled* with drinking water it will destroy the organic poison. But people are in the habit of just imparting to water the very faintest tinge of colour by means of permanganates, and then imagining they have destroyed the organic poison. It is, however, well known to chemists that in the cold and in dilute solution permanganate of potash does not rapidly destroy albumen. We might quote some experiments of Dr. Frankland's in support of this statement; and, indeed, it is not in dispute.

Whilst, therefore, we do not set much value on the use of Condy's fluid in the cold and in a state of high dilution, we do regard the use of it boiling (even when highly dilute) as most valuable. Furthermore, the simple boiling of water is not so efficient as is often supposed. In the course of an investigation, Mr. Wanklyn boiled a dilute solution of albumen with carbonate of soda for a number of hours, without breaking it up; and afterwards boiled the same solution with alkaline permanganate, which forthwith destroyed the albumen that had resisted simple boiling with carbonate of soda. In thus insisting upon the efficient employment of permanganates we are following Mr. Condy, who has bitterly complained (and with reason) that his reagent does not get fair play.

TESTIMONIAL.—Mr. Alfred Fleischmann, having resigned his practice at Cheltenham, was on Friday last presented with a testimonial by his *clients*. The testimonial consisted of a valuable watch and chain, a Roman intaglio ring, a diamond pin, a dispatch box, and an inlaid revolver. Mr. Fleischmann is about to take up his residence in the Isle of Capri in the Bay of Naples. The island is one of the most beautiful and healthy in the Mediterranean, and has now the advantage of a resident English medical practitioner.