

ductions and practical applications of the results obtained by the technical analyses, and is full of new opinions and original theories. Although we are not in accordance with the author in some of his statements, we feel bound to confess that he supports them with great ability. Indeed, his book is most able, interesting, and suggestive, and is well deserving of attentive study.

## NOTES ON BOOKS.

*Transactions of the Gynecological Society of Boston.* New Series. Vol. i. (Boston, U.S.A. Cupples and Hird. 1889.)—This Society was founded in 1869, and seven volumes of transactions were published, 1869-72, under the title of *The Journal of the Gynecological Society of Boston*. The first instalment of the new series forms a very handsome volume, for which the editor and publisher deserve credit. The beautiful lines from Goethe's *Faust*, "Grau, theurer Freund, ist alle Theorie, und grün des Lebens goldner Baum," which form a kind of text on the title-page had best been left untranslated. The illustrations are not equal to the text when we take into consideration the excellence of the plates in many current publications, owing to photogravure and other improved methods of engraving and printing. The subjects of discussion include many familiar topics, such as the ethics of abortion, the functions of the ovary, and the character of different forms of pelvic inflammation in women. Drs. Harri-man and H. M. Field contribute two good practical papers on constipation in women. Dr. Helen Betts's communication on the dress of women and its relation to the etiology and treatment of pelvic disease, is worth consideration. The shelves of medical libraries already groan under the weight of *Transactions*, but these new archives which are here reviewed should, nevertheless, not be excluded.

*The British Gynecological Journal, being the Journal of the British Gynecological Society.* Edited by FANCOURT BARNES, M.D. Part XVIII. August, 1889. (London: John Bale and Sons.)—This part includes several interesting communications, abstracts of which have appeared in our Society reports. Of high pathological importance is Dr. R. T. Smith's Case of Diffuse Fibrosis. There was fibroid thickening of the ovaries and other pelvic viscera, the peritoneum, the intestines, and the stomach. Drs. Bristowe and Hilton Fagge have described this condition as affecting the stomach. A fuller report of the pathological appearances in this case is forthcoming. There was ascites with emaciation, and, on tapping, nodular masses were felt, so that cancer was naturally diagnosed. The case may throw light on many other instances of obscure abdominal disease ending fatally. A specimen of Primary Tubercular Salpingitis deserves notice. The tube was removed by Dr. Heywood Smith. On naked-eye inspection it appeared to be invested with fibroid growths. When examined under the microscope the growths proved to be masses of tubercle.

## REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

### DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS,

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

#### FRAME FOOD PREPARATIONS.

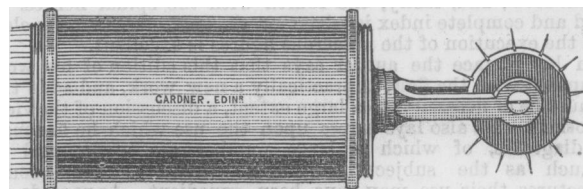
THE bran of wheat and of other cereals contains, as is well known, a large quantity of albuminoids, oil, and phosphates. In the bran itself they are practically useless for human food on account of the overwhelming proportion of cellulose with which they are combined, because the latter is indigestible itself, and causes serious irritation of the intestinal canal. "Frame food extract" consists of these food materials, ingeniously extracted and separated from the cellulose of bran. The composition is particularly favourable. According to Dr. P. Frankland, whose analysis we have verified, it includes no less than 21 per cent. of albuminoids, and 7.5 per cent. of phosphate of potash, together with 48 per cent. of sugar, dextrin, and starch. The extract itself is in the form of a dry brown powder, of an agreeable biscuit-like odour and slightly bitter taste. It forms the basis of a number of

preparations, such as frame food porridge, frame food jelly, and frame food bread, the whole of which are good and nutritious articles of food. Frame food makes available for human food a portion of an article which has hitherto been a waste product, of little use even for the feeding of animals.

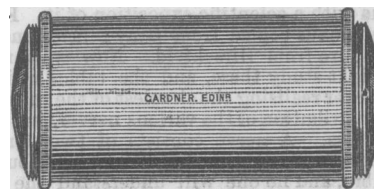
#### THE DERMIC PUNCTATOR.

THE accompanying woodcuts represent an instrument, open and shut, which I have devised and used for some time. Its object is—by means of dry needle puncture alone, or followed by moist applications—to induce counter-irritation expeditiously over a great or less extensive area in all cases suitable for treatment by that method. Having found it to be most convenient and effectual for the purpose, the description of it will, I hope, be of use to others.

The needles, by means of the spur or stamper, are rapidly moved over the part to be operated upon with sufficient pressure to penetrate the derma without bleeding, and this process may be repeated from time to time with little felt inconvenience to the patient. The efficacy of this dry application of the needles is materially enhanced, and may be indefinitely continued by immediately brushing over the punctures with any of the counter-irritant applications commonly in use.



When ordinary blistering fluid, reduced to one-fourth of its usual strength by the addition of three parts of sulphuric ether, is thus used, it is immediately productive of a crop of pin-head vesicles, unattended by pain, or shock, or the usual strangury of cantharides applications. The vesicles shortly disappear by absorption, a layer of dry cotton-wool being the only dressing required.



The *B. P.* croton oil liniment, reduced in strength in the same proportion by sulphuric ether, and applied in the same way, also yields pin-head vesicles, which do not coalesce nor pustulate as is apt to be the case when that liniment is used. A like result follows the application of strong acetic acid applied by itself. Any of the anodyne or rubefacient liniments may be used in their ordinary strength. The vesicant applications over the chest in phthisis are very relieving, and in acute and chronic bronchial catarrh they have been found curative.

The needle application is very serviceable in many of the disorders connected with hysteria, and in nearly all spasmodic and painful affections of the nervous system. The marks left on the skin by the instrument disappear after a time.

The punctator can be obtained from Mr. J. Gardner, cutler, Edinburgh.  
ANDREW SMART, M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed.,  
Senior Assistant Physician to the Royal Infirmary,  
Edinburgh.

#### DYSPEPSIA CAKES (POWDERED).

THIS preparation we have noticed before, the dyspepsia cakes of Dahl's agency having been previously analysed and commented upon by us. The powder now before us is almost tasteless, and has somewhat the appearance of sawdust, but is nevertheless remarkably poor in cellulose, and correspondingly rich in true food materials.