in the male sex than in the female. Atypical forms of the palate appear, however, to be more common in the latter than in the former.

HRDLICKA'S observations lead him to believe that there is no one or any set of the abnormalities which run through such a number of subjects as to justify its being considered typical of the asylum children. White children of both sexes were found to possess, on an average, a decidedly larger proportion of inborn abnormalities than the negroes; but the latter acquire in early life a larger percentage of irregularities than do the white children. In the negroes both the pressure and traction force were found to exceed at all ages similar forces in the white children, though the average weight of the latter exceeds that of the former. On the whole, Dr. Hrdlicka does not appear to attach the significance which has been attributed by some to physical abnormalities, for he italicises the following statement: "As a matter of fact, there are very few abnormalities which we can observe in man that may be positively said to render the individual generally either decidedly inferior, or markedly superior, to his fellow-beings. No single physical abnormality (and but a rare combination of abnormalities) suffices of itself to stamp any individual as a human degenerate."

NOTES ON BOOKS.

CAPTAIN A. E. GRANT, I.M.S., has printed in book form his recent address as President of the Madras Medical Society on *Post-Graduate Instruction and Research* (G. A. Nateson and Co.), in connection with the Tata scheme for a research institute in India. Captain Grant's only fear is that the project may be unduly delayed, or even temporarily stranded, on the shores of neglect, by the sluggish tide of "official reports," "memoranda," "suggestion," "reference," *et hoc genus*. But he trusts that with the present energetic Viceroy at the helm, and a picked crew of skilled and devoted men under his guidance, the scheme may be carried through.

We have received the Calendar of the Punjab University, Lahore (Calcutta: Baptist Mission Press. 1899. Demy 8vo, pp. 820. Rs.2.), which contains full particulars with regard to the regulations, faculties, degrees, and diplomas of the University, together with a college directory, and the examination papers set during the year 1898-99.

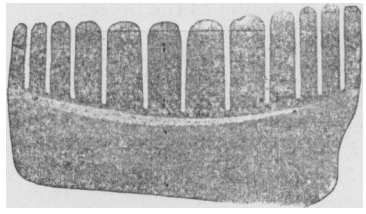
The Plague Inspector, by Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, I.M S., is a book of over 160 pages, defining and explaining the duties of a plague inspector in India. It was written because something of the kind was asked for over and over again by plague supervisors to guide them in their work. Dr. King has accomplished the task he has set himself in a most satisfactory manner. The book is free from technical medical phraseology, and is written in a style that can be readily followed by laymen. It is divided into two parts. Part I begins with a short account of plague, a description of the plague microbe, with the favourable and unfavourable conditions for its vitality, the animals that suffer from plague, the incubation period of plague, the products of the plague microbe, mode of entry of the microbe into the system, and the mode of exit of the microbe from the body. Then follow the symptomatology of the disease, its mode of transmission, and the organisation for prevention of spread, the regulation of passenger traffic by sea, and the regulation of importation of articles from infected areas or country. The duties of the sanitary inspector with reference to plague are carefully and minutely gone into, and includes arrangements for home segregation, removal to hospital, house to house inspection, formation of health camps, and disinfection. Part II. refers more to the general duties of a sanitary inspector, and deals more especially with conservancy and sewage disposal. We hope the labour which Lieutenant-Colonel King has expended on this manual will bear fruit, and that full advantage will be taken of the knowledge he has placed within the reach of those engaged in sanitary work in India.

A Manual of Pharmaceutical Testing, by BARNARD S. PROCTOR, F.I.C., gives such directions for testing as will show the quality of pharmaceutical chemicals with such reagents and appliances as are to be found at the dispensing counter. The object of the author has been to enable the pharmacist in the simplest, speediest, and most inexpensive way to be able to decide whether an article is fit for use. In many instances the *British Pharmacopœia* tests are sufficiently simple and satisfactory for the purpose, but in a considerable number of cases other and simpler methods of attaining the required object are given. The second edition, (crown 8vo, pp. 200, 2s. 6d.; London: *Chemist and Druggist* Office, 1899) has been brought into line with the *British Pharmacopœia, 1898*, and up to the requirements of the day by additions and emendations made by the editorial staff of the *Chemist and Druggist*.

REPORTS AND ANALYSES
AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS
IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, DIETETICS, AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES.

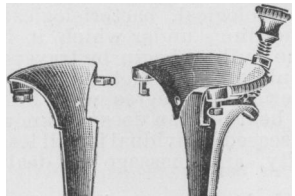
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

Arch Support for Flat Foot.—Mr. F. H. DAVIES, M.B., has submitted to us an arch support for flat feet. It consists, as seen in the illustration, of a thin plate of steel in two planes, one of which is deeply dentated, and forms a lateral support for the arch of the foot; it fits in between the os calcis and the ends of the metatarsal bones. The plate is covered with leather when in use. It is claimed that the springs individually yield to pressure, and thus accommodate themselves to the under-surface of the arch, but collectively offer suffi-



cient resistance to prevent the stretching of the ligaments. The flat part of the steel plate, being under the outer part of the foot, is fixed, and acts as a fulcrum from which the springs play. This spring plate is an endeavour to combine the advantages of the elastic rubber pad with the firm support given by a Whitman's brace, and as such it will probably be of service in cases of early flat foot with slight bony displacement.

A Modified Duplay's Nasal Speculum.—Dr. G. SANDISON BROCK (Rome) writes: In the removal of nasal polypi from the deeper parts with the aid of the ordinary Duplay speculum, I have experienced difficulty in manipulating the snare from not being able to remove the speculum from the handle of the instrument. To obviate this, Messrs. J. Gardner and Son, Edinburgh, following my suggestion, have made for me a modification of the Duplay by dividing its wide anterior ring in a vertical direction, so as to render the two blades readily separable when desired, the parts of the ring when the speculum is in use being secured in position by a gate at one side and by a bayonet joint at the other (see figure).



Professor Ferreri, of Rome, to whom I gave one of these modified Duplay speculums a year ago, tells me he has found it very useful, and describes it in his recently-published book on operative treatment in diseases of the nose, ear, and throat. I therefore venture to bring it to the notice of your readers.

Br Med J: first published as 10.1136/bmj.2.2033.1686 on 16 December 1899. Downloaded from http://www.bmj.com/ on 19 April 2024 by guest. Protected by copyright.