

has not been recorded hitherto. He says that the soldiers at Elsinore and the prostitutes at Kiel sell the crablouse, preserved in little glass tubes, at three halfpence apiece, as a charm against venereal infection.

WITH AN AMBULANCE DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR; PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND ADVENTURES WITH BOTH ARMIES, 1870-71. By C. E. RYAN, F.R.C.S.I., M.R.C.P.I. London: John Murray. 1896. (Cr. 8vo, pp. 376. 9s.)

DR. RYAN has written a very interesting and readable book. It is true that it has appeared rather late in the day, but what it has lost in this respect is made up for by many of those merits which only a retrospect can possess. Had the book been written immediately after the thrilling events to which it alludes, which shook Europe to its centre, while passion was hot and prejudices were deep, it could hardly have failed to be more or less disfigured by too vivid colouring. This might have been excusable from a very young man, stirred to the very soul by the monstrous occurrences which were taking place, but would now appear lacking in proportion. As it is, the book is an interesting sketch of personal experiences, calm, temperate, and generous alike to associates and to those who were opposed to the side which the author espoused. It is, in fact, the work of a matured and thoughtful man who has learned to regard the events of an awful crisis soberly and righteously.

Where the ambulance work is touched upon his description is modest without losing anything of its personal interest. The author shows what useful work can be done by one who is animated only by a wish to perform a natural duty, and all this without unduly marking his own performances. But the chief merit of the work lies in its emphatic exposure of the horrors of modern warfare, with its terrible carnage and the fearful bodily and mental suffering it entails on all classes of the community.

Dr. Ryan's descriptions are striking and thrilling without being revolting. He writes in evident pain, and re-echoes with the writer of this notice when he thinks of the sights and sounds of that terrible period in which he, too, was engaged in similar work, the old line, *Quis talia fando temperet a lachrymis.*

## REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

### DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW INVENTIONS

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

#### MEAT JELLY.

THE TAURINE COMPANY, of 6, Crosby Square, have sent us a sample of a preparation described as "tasteless and self-digestive meat jelly" for the use of invalids. It is claimed to be made from the best beef, and to contain more available nutriment than any other meat preparation. Taurine, according to our examination, is a jelly very deficient in meat flavour. When dissolved in water, and the solution heated, there is a copious coagulation of albumen. Further analysis showed it to contain 0.77 per cent. coagulable material, 7.37 per cent. meat extractives, 6.21 per cent. gelatine and albumose, and 2.34 per cent. saline constituents. Taurine, therefore, is certainly of nutritive value, superior to that of ordinary meat jellies like calf's foot jelly. It contains a small amount of boracic acid.

#### MIDWIFERY FORCEPS.

WE have received from Dr. MacQuibban, of Aberdeen, a pair of midwifery forceps, the peculiarity of which is that not only are the handles roughened by cross cutting, but the top of the locks and the inside of the blades are cross cut also. Dr. MacQuibban holds that this renders them less likely to slip. Some think that fine cutting makes the instrument less easy to clean; but if they are always cleansed by boiling this has no force. The handles would be better made of metal.

#### A RUBBER CATHETER.

MESSRS. MAW, SON AND THOMPSON have forwarded us a specimen of a new rubber catheter made by them at the suggestion of Mr. Thomas Smith. It is an ordinary soft rubber catheter, with a solid end, but the distal portion—A B in the drawing—has been stiffened by means of a quill, so as to facilitate the passage of the instrument through the urethra during introduction.



#### TAKA-DIASTASE TABLETS.

WE have drawn attention in a previous report to the remarkable amyolytic action possessed by taka-diastase—a ferment discovered by a Japanese chemist, Jokichi Takamine. Taka-diastase has hitherto been supplied by Messrs. Parke, Davis and Co., manufacturing chemists, 451, Oxford Street, W., only in the form of powder. It is now prepared compressed into tablets, each containing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  grains—the average adult dose. This compressed form will recommend itself for its portability and facility of administration.

#### SOLOIDS OF COMPRESSED DRUGS.

MESSRS. BURROUGHS, WELLCOME AND CO., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., have sent specimens of four additions to their list of compressed drugs, intended for external use, and known as soloids. The colour of a soloid is distinctive, and is communicated to the liquid in which it is dissolved, and thus the risk of substitution is avoided. The zinc chloride soloids contain 1 grain each of the chloride; they can be used for the preparation of caustic or antiseptic solutions. A corrosive sublimate soloid dissolved in 4 fluid ounces of water makes a solution of a strength of 1 in 1,000. Silver nitrate soloids contain 1 grain of the salt; they, of course, must be dissolved in distilled water. Potassium permanganate soloids form approximately the liq. potassæ permanganat. of the *British Pharmacopœia* when 1 is dissolved in a fluid ounce of water. These soloids readily dissolve, and are very convenient for the immediate preparation of solutions for external use.

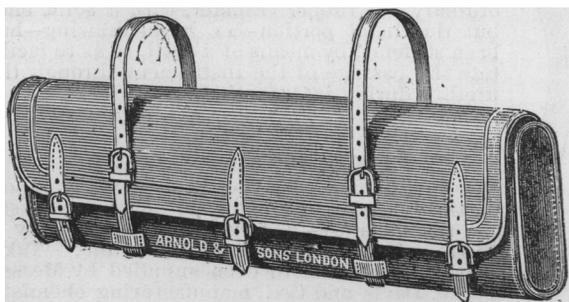
#### URANIUM NITRATE AND PIPERAZINE TABLOIDS.

URANIUM NITRATE has been given with good effect in diabetes. It is a lemon-yellow salt, very soluble in water. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., prepare this new remedy in a compressed form, convenient for administration. The same manufacturers also prepare piperazine in tabloid form. This organic base dissolves twelve times as much uric acid as lithium carbonate, and the urate formed is soluble in much less water. It is stated to be a powerful solvent of uric acid and insoluble urates in the system, and has been used successfully as a remedy in cases of uric acid diathesis, such as gout, rheumatism, and urinary calculi.

#### A MIDWIFERY SACHEL FOR THE SADDLE.

MR. GEORGE D. MACKINTOSH forwards us a description of a midwifery satchel for the saddle, which may be very useful to some country practitioners who do most of their work on horseback. The satchel has been made for him by Messrs. Arnold and Son. The case is made of cowhide, and is 15 inches long by 11 inches in circumference. It is oval at the ends, and is closed by three straps. It is attached to the front of the off side of the saddle by two encircling bands of

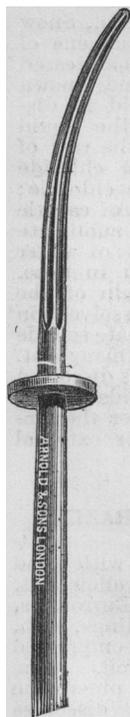
leather, and is constructed to contain a 3 iij bottle of chloroform, two 3j bottles for ergot and chloral, a hypodermic syringe in case with tabloids of ergotin and morphine, a pair of frenum scissors, a packet of curved needles with stout silk



sutures, a vaginal syringe, a silk catheter (No. 8), and a pair of Simpson's long forceps. All the instruments and bottles fit in perfectly, and can be taken out for use as quickly as from the ordinary obstetric bag. The satchel is not in the way when riding.

#### NEW ALUMINIUM UTERINE PROBE.

DR. ALEXANDER DUKE (Cheltenham) claims for this probe that it will carry sufficient liquid caustic for application to the cervical canal without any necessity for arming with cotton wool. It also possesses the advantage of cleanliness, can be used with any acid, being non-corrosive, and can be utilised as an ointment carrier at will of operator. The small disc near the point prevents any caustic finding its way to the operator's fingers. Messrs. Arnold and Sons have carried out Dr. Duke's suggestions in making the instrument.



#### VIN NOURRY.

This preparation is described as an iodinated wine, rich in iodine, pleasant in flavour, and reliable by reason of its stability. The iodine is said to be chemically combined with tannin to form an almost tasteless compound, which is dissolved in a sound sweet wine, and the patient, it is claimed, is able to assimilate the whole of the iodine administered, which is not the case with the alkaline iodides. It is now well known that a solution of tannin has the property of dissolving iodine, forming a compound which no longer gives the reactions for free iodine, and it is from this cause that the *Pharmacopœia* tests for starch with iodine in substances such as catechu is misleading and requires amendment. According to our analysis, Vin Nourry consists of a wine of a Malaga character, containing 33.6 per cent. extractives, a large proportion of which is glycerine, and 0.3 per cent. mineral constituents. It also contains tannin, and nearly 0.75 grain of iodine per tablespoonful, of which a small proportion is present in the ash. The wine contains no free iodine. It is very pleasant to the taste, and no doubt would be very effective in cases where iodine and iodides are indicated. Vin Nourry can be obtained from Messrs. F. Comar and Son, 64, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

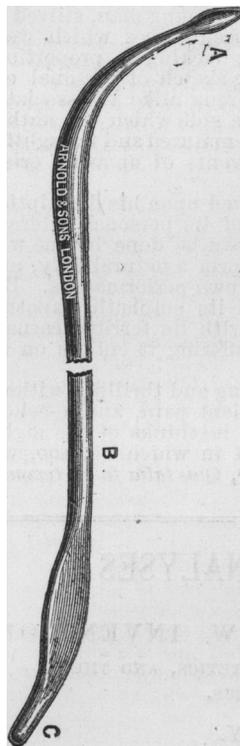
#### HERMITINE.

HERMITINE is the name given to a disinfectant solution which is produced by the electrolysis of sea water, or for medical purposes of a saline solution containing sodium and magnesium chlorides. Hermitine as a medicinal agent has been investigated by Dr. J. Pioger, and from the results of his experience, as communicated to L'Académie de Médecine, Paris, it appears that it instantly destroys all bad odours, stops putrid fermentation, and is, in his opinion, an ideal

antiseptic. Employed in strength varying from 0.05 to 0.10 and 0.20 per cent., as expressed in available chlorine, it was found to be efficacious in urinary diseases, as a uterine injection, in abscesses, in diphtheria, and generally as a germicide. Whatever may be the other active agents present in an electrolysed salt solution, it is only possible to express its value chemically by the amount of available chlorine present. Hermitine contains, according to our analysis, 0.21 per cent. available chlorine, and 0.78 per cent. solid contents. It is a clear colourless liquid, having a slight alkaline reaction. With a strength of above 0.10 per cent. of available chlorine it is tolerably permanent, but in more dilute solutions it is very unstable, and should be diluted therefore with water as required for use. Messrs. Paterson and Cooper, of 8, Princes Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., informs us that Hermitine can be made of any strength as required.

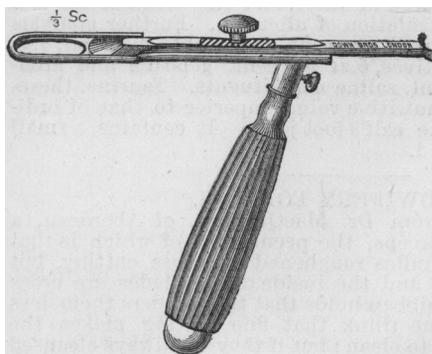
#### AN IMPROVED COMBINATION SOUND.

MR. JAMES MACMUNN, L.R.C.P. (Finsbury Pavement, E.C.), writes: The accompanying illustration shows a sound, made at my suggestion by Messrs. Arnold and Sons. The great ease with which it passes, and the minimised pain caused, justifies me, I hope, in claiming for it a more scientific adaptation to the urethral contour than those in use. It possesses the following points: (1) It has two curves, the shaft being bent back; (2) the shaft is thinned down, thus preventing grasp by the meatus, and needless distension (and hence irritation) of the entire urethra at one time; (3) A more olivary point than Professor Lister's; (4) Bent back handles, affording an improved hold; (5) A graduation in size of these handles, so that, perhaps, they might be used directly in rebellious stricture; or (6) that they may serve as dilators of the cervical uterine canal, for since, like the urethra, this canal is a transverse slit, it must yield more readily to a flattened ovoid, which limits the area of tension in passing.



#### AN IMPROVED TONSILLOTOME.

Dr. W. H. KELSON, Cheapside, writes:—"Messrs. Down Brothers have made for me a tonsillotome, which, while somewhat resembling Mackenzie's, differs from it in the following particulars:



"1. The blade is considerably shorter. Having measured the distance from the lips to the posterior border of the tonsil in a large number of cases, I found that this reduction could be made, and yet the most deeply placed tonsil reached with ease.

"2. The handle blocks into the blade instead of screwing in, it therefore cannot possibly

rotate, as sometimes happens with the screw at the critical moment.

"3. The handle makes an acute instead of an obtuse angle with the blade, whereby the operator's thumb has much greater power in thrusting home the latter.

"4. It is entirely of metal.

"The instrument seems to do its work very satisfactorily."

## ANNUAL MUSEUM.

### [CONCLUDING NOTICE.]

THE Museum, which, as has been stated, was well and handsomely installed, contained, in addition to the exhibits already noticed, others for which the following claims were made:

THE SANITARY WOOD WOOL COMPANY, LIMITED (London), had a display of Hartmann's Patent Wood Wool Wadding. It is claimed that it is the most absorbent dressing made; thoroughly antiseptic; gives perfect drainage to the wound; does not heat; absorbs all discharges. We are informed that it is used in 200 of the leading hospitals. Hartmann's Patent Wood Wool Tissue: This is in a continuous roll, consisting of a layer of wood wool wadding between two pieces of sublimate gauze, possessing all the advantages of the wood wool wadding, with the convenience that any size pad can be cut off with the scissors. Hartmann's Vaccination Pads consist of a small pad of wood wool wadding and gauze, which protects the arm from external violence and absorbs the discharge; completely diminishes the risk of septic absorption and blood poisoning. Hartmann's Sanitary Gonorrhoea Bags are highly recommended for complaints, such as gonorrhoea, chancre, etc.; they absorb all discharge, prevent soiling of clothes, etc. Hartmann's Catgut: It is now used with great success in leading hospitals; it is put up in juniper oil and preserved in alcohol. The New Sterilised Catgut: This firm are now introducing for the first time sterilised catgut, put up in glass tubes, prepared by dry heat to 130° Celsius. Also prepared by boiling in camol to 165° Celsius (by using this preparation this degree of heat does not injure the gut). Hartmann's Sanitary Wood Wool Sheets—made in three sizes at 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. These sheets are made of the wood wool wadding and gauze, and are therefore most absorbent. In an *accouchement* a large sheet is laid under the patient; it absorbs the discharge completely, and it is simply burnt after use. A smaller sheet is then laid under the patient to absorb any further discharge. The risk of puerperal fever is greatly diminished by using these sheets, and a safe, comfortable, and antiseptic *accouchement* aided. These sheets are also used for bedsores, operations, etc. Hartmann's Hygienic Towelettes were also shown; their advantages over the ordinary diapers are fully recognised. The special make for *accouchement* are said now to be largely used and recommended by obstetricians and nurses. Hartmann's *Accouchement* Outfits (21s. and 10s. 6d.): These outfits contain all the necessary sheets, towelettes, binder pins, thread, and ointment required.

MR. SAXLEHNER exhibited specimens of the Hunyadi Janos aperient water. In addition to the older recommendations there are some further testimonials in the same sense, of more recent date, testifying to its value as an aperient mineral water.

THE STANDARD MALT EXTRACT COMPANY, LIMITED (Liverpool), exhibited Standard Malt Extract; Standard Malt Extract and Cod-liver Oil, containing 25 per cent. of the finest Norwegian cod-liver oil; Standard Liquid Malt Extract, containing all the properties of the ordinary Standard Malt Extract in a liquid form. Diastol: Described as an entirely new and original preparation for amyldyspepsia, indigestion, and kindred affections.

MESSRS. G. VAN ABBOTT AND SONS (London) were exhibiting specimens of their Diabetic Specialities, including Diabetic Bread: Gluten Bread in slices; Gluten Biscottes or Rolls; Bran Gluten Biscottes or Rolls to be used in place of ordinary bread; in cases of diabetes they are much improved by toasting, and should, if possible be eaten warm; they will keep good any length of time in a moderately dry place, therefore can be forwarded to any part of the world. Soft Gluten Bread,

Soya Bread, Bran Gluten Bread, to be taken in change with above, and for cutting sandwiches for travelling; they will only keep good three or four days. Diabetic Biscuits: Soya Biscuits, Euthenia Biscuits, Plain Ginger Biscuits, can also be used in the place of ordinary bread, as they contain no sweetenings, and are nice short crisp biscuits. Almond Cakes, Coco Nut Biscuits, Carraway Biscuits, Sweet Ginger Biscuits; these are all sweetened with saccharin for use as a dessert or afternoon tea biscuits. Gluten and Meat Biscuits, for travellers and sportsmen, Calf's Foot Jelly, Mock Turtle, Consomme, and Real Turtle Soups, and other preparations. They called special attention to their Digestive Biscuits, of which a report was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL recently.

MESSRS. JOHN WEISS AND SON (London and Manchester) had, as usual, a good display of Surgical Instruments.

MESSRS. JAMES WOOLLEY, SONS, AND CO., LIMITED (Manchester) had an exhibit which embraced a series of pharmaceutical products, including Pearl-Coated Pills of elegant appearance, a collection of soluble Flexible Gelatine Capsules, specimens of Medicated Suppositories, Bougies, and Pessaries. Granular Effervescent Preparations, manufactured by them, were shown, and include useful combinations of Antipyrin, Caffeine, Piperazine, etc.; also Concentrated Mixtures for facilitating dispensing operations; Emulsions of Cod-Liver Oil, with creasote and guaiacol; several preparations of Bismuth and Combinations, with Pepsin, Euonymin, etc. Other specialities were in evidence for which this firm has gained distinction, notably Sanitary Rose Powder, a useful requisite for the toilet and nursery. We have referred to this preparation on previous occasions. Messrs. Woolley are agents for Dr. Hartmann's Lignosulfit, which it is stated has been used in Austria and Germany with success in pulmonary phthisis. Lignosulfit is a gaseous product, consisting of sulphurous acid gas in combination with odorless extracts from pine and spruce trees. An apparatus was also shown for distributing the vapours of Lignosulfit throughout the room, thus enabling the patient to inhale the fumes while sitting, reading, or during gymnastic exercise. In the surgical instrument section of this exhibit various new forms of Specula were shown, including a set consisting of six blades and an arrangement for forming the same into a speculum, and two handles, by means of which the blades may be used independently as retractors. A new form of Morocco Obstetric Bag, in which the forceps and other instruments are kept quite distinct from the rubber goods and the bottles. It is shaped somewhat similar to a dressing-bag, the forceps, etc., being laid in the bottom of the bag, the enema, intra-uterine tube, and uterine dilator being in a compartment by themselves, the bottles in metal cases, hypodermic syringe and metal case for sutures being in the other compartment. Various interesting forms of Pocket Sterilisers, both for instruments and dressings; also large Sterilisers. The Limpet Enema is fitted with a suction end, by means of which the Enema is secured, and cannot slip out of the bowl or basin when in use. An interesting Urine Test Stand was shown. It was made in polished maple, provided with five good stoppered bottles for test solutions, a urine jar, a urinometer, test tubes, and two drawers to contain various odd apparatus, and is supplied at 10s. 6d. This exhibit also included a large assortment of Electric Light Apparatus, Accumulators, Batteries, various Electroscopes for the urethra, vagina, nose, etc., also Medical Batteries with constant and interrupted currents, and Combined Batteries for both purposes. A Complete Set of Apparatus for producing the new x rays, consisting of five cell battery, an induction coil giving a three-inch spark, one of the new x ray tubes and stand. The whole set is offered at £10. A display of compactly arranged Ambulance and Accident Emergency Cases completes an interesting exhibit.

MESSRS. HERTZ AND COLLINGWOOD, the proprietors of Laurent-Perrier "Sans-Sucre" Champagne, which has been quickly making its way of late years, especially amongst the medical profession, and amateurs of a really natural Champagne, without liqueur, had the opportunity through the courtesy of Messrs. Hope and Bendle, wine merchants of Carlisle, who placed a room at their disposal to show samples