

put on 10 grains of urotropine three times a day, but, although he received in all 450 grains, there was not the slightest diminution in the numbers of typhoid bacilli excreted in the urine. They considered it unwise to push the drug in larger doses owing to the danger of haematuria.

## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

### *The Loop Developer.*

THIS machine, manufactured by Jonas Woodhead and Sons, Leeds, consists of a flat steel spring, bent into the form of five-sixths of a circle of about 9 in. diameter. A force of 50 lb. is required to close the circle, when applied to the two handles, which are fixed to the ends of the spring. A graduated plate and sliding indicator show how much force has been exerted in each effort. The vendors claim that this appliance is superior to the ordinary "chest expander," of which it is obviously the converse. In the former the user has to exert force in order to separate his hands from one another, or one of them from a fixed point; with the loop developer, force has always to be applied to bring the hands nearer together. In all the exercises which can be done with it the greater part of the work must be done by the two pectoral muscles, the muscles of the arms and shoulders taking only a very minor part in them, and those of the back, head, neck, and lower limbs being scarcely called into action at all. The usefulness of the appliance is therefore, in our opinion, likely to be rather limited, but it might be profitably employed in conjunction with the extension exercisers to develop those muscles which these latter are likely to spare. The apparatus would be improved by the substitution of larger wood-covered handles for the thin metal ones, which are apt to twist in the grasp. The prospectus states that weaker and stronger springs than the one which we have examined are also made.

### *Portable Urine Test Case.*

Dr. A. OGIER WARD (London, E.C.) writes: Most men are occasionally compelled to test urine away from home, and it is then that a pocket test case, which has been lying by for some time—months, it may be—is usually found to be disorganized. Ferrocyanic tablets crumble; citric acid tablets deliquesce; compressed tablets of Fehling's solution decompose quite quickly, and, with acids in the liquid form, leakages are very prone to occur, to the detriment of the case. He has therefore designed a pocket case, not open to these objections, which he describes as follows: The spirit lamp supplied will not leak, for it has a thoroughly tight screw cap. The test media are tablets, which will keep almost indefinitely. The test for sugar is free from all reservations, and is applicable when the salicylates are being administered, nothing but glucose giving the indigo reaction. In testing for albumen with salicyl-sulphonic tablets the reaction, if it occur, indicates a proteid of some sort, which implies a pathological condition; it is practically an instantaneous test, and both it and the sugar test are extremely delicate. The case contains a urinometer, two test tubes, litmus paper, spirit lamp, test tube holder, pipette, tubes of tablets, and a card with complete directions; extra tubes, pipettes, and tablets can be procured at any time for a few pence. The complete case costs 10s. 6d., and measures 4 in. by 3 in. by 1 in. It has been put together at his suggestion by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys.

AN official bulletin issued by the Treasury Department of the United States shows that a proposal made last spring for the organization of a coloured Anti-Tuberculosis League is making good progress. This plan contemplates the organization of a State league in each of the United States with a branch in every coloured church. A special feature is the issue of a certificate, a large parchment containing printed information relative to the cause, prevention and cure of tuberculosis, and other information for the prevention of disease. Five State leagues have already been organized, and great interest is being manifested in the movement by persons of negro blood. The plan has been endorsed at a conference of State and Territorial Boards of Health, which passed a resolution to the effect that it was the best scheme suggested for dealing with tuberculosis among the coloured community and that it should receive the support of all Boards of Health. Tuberculosis is predominant among the coloured residents in the United States and is deemed to threaten not only their own race, but to constitute a serious menace to the white people with whom they come in contact.

## Medical News.

DR. ARGYLL ROBERTSON left estate valued at £30,000, and the net personalty of the late Dr. Rayner W. Batten, of Gloucester, was £46,000.

THE old students' dinner of St. Thomas's Hospital will be held at the Hotel Cecil, London, on Friday, October 1st, with Mr. J. B. Lawford in the chair.

AT Hastings, on August 17th, a milkseller, against whom two previous convictions were recorded, was sentenced to two months' hard labour, without the option of a fine, for selling adulterated milk.

A RAILWAY traveller has written to the Dublin papers to call attention to the ineffective cleansing of third class railway carriages. The law, he says, compels the disinfection of cattle wagons, and "one would imagine that the life of a man counted for more than that of a beast."

THE King conferred the Royal Victorian Order, Fourth Class, on Fleet Surgeon C. J. Mansfield, M.D., on board the Royal Yacht *Victoria and Albert*, on August 5th, at Cowes. Dr. Mansfield was Fleet Surgeon of R.N. College, Osborne, during the time that H.R.H. Prince Edward of Wales was a cadet there.

ACCORDING to a statement in the *Daily Telegraph*, the Japanese Minister for Home Affairs has issued an order, under the authority of a law recently passed by the Japanese Parliament, forbidding physicians, surgeons, dentists, and all those who conduct hospitals or other institutions for medical consultations and treatment, to advertise anything except their names, qualifications, addresses, and charges.

AT an inquest in Holborn on August 13th, the jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure in the case of a child stated by the medical witness to have died from delayed chloroform poisoning. The child underwent an operation under chloroform on July 10th, and made what was apparently a normal recovery. On the following afternoon, however, symptoms set in which suggested delayed chloroform poisoning. Death took place the same night, and the view formed before death was confirmed on autopsy.

AT the Cheltenham Liberal Club, on August 11th, Dr. Richard Davies was the recipient of an illuminated address and a motor car. For many years past he has played a very active part in the public affairs of Cheltenham, and for some ten years has held a seat on the Town Council. The subscribers to the presentation were upwards of five hundred of his constituents and fellow townsmen, who desired in this way to express their gratitude to Dr. Davies for his services to the town, their continued confidence in him, and their sympathy in respect of some legal troubles in which Dr. Davies was involved by an incident during the elections last autumn.

IT would appear from an article in *Le Progrès médical* that the numerous medical men who do their work in connexion with the Assistance Publique of Paris are about to lose one of the small advantages they gain thereby. Being all either occupants of positions on the staffs of various hospitals, or on the lists of those ready to answer urgent calls from public officials to attend cases of injury or sudden illness in the streets or elsewhere, the Post Office authorities have hitherto deemed it just to remit in their favour 25 per cent. of the ordinary telephonic charges. They have now, however, received notice that from October 1st they will have to pay full rates.

ACCORDING to statistics recently issued by the United States Bureau of Education there are altogether in the United States 2,298 libraries which possess upwards of 5,000 volumes. Thirty-two of them are of a medical character, the largest being the library at the Surgeon-General's Office, which contains 162,000 volumes. Next comes that of the New York Academy of Medicine, which has 85,000 volumes; and, third, the library of the Medical Society of Brooklyn, with 65,000 volumes. Medical libraries containing upwards of 5,000 volumes are distributed as follows: The State of New York is credited with 7; Pennsylvania and Massachusetts with 5 each; Illinois, Ohio, and Maryland 3 each; Missouri with 2; and Rhode Island, Louisiana, Texas, and California with 1 apiece.

In response to questions put to him by Dr. Waldo, the coroner, one of the surgeons of the hospital stated that the steps taken in this case in the hope of saving the patient's life were necessary, but that they, of course, could only be properly carried out by a qualified medical man with an adequate knowledge of anatomy and surgery. Similarly no dentist, unless a fully qualified medical man, would be able to perform the tracheotomy sometimes rendered necessary during nitrous oxide gas administration, owing to a tooth falling into the air passage. The anaesthetist stated that the chloroform used was prepared from acetones which he personally considered as safe as the more expensive forms of chloroform. To this the coroner replied that other anaesthetists had informed him that the more expensive methylic and ethylic chloroforms were pleasanter for the patient and safer to use than acetone chloroform.

In the course of this and the previous case Dr. Waldo also drew the attention of the juries to the general subject of anaesthetic administration and to the bill recently introduced in the House of Commons. During the past eight years he had held inquests on forty-one deaths under anaesthesia at Guy's Hospital. In thirty-three of them the anaesthetic was chloroform. Eighteen months ago one of his juries added to a verdict a rider to the effect that the authorities of Guy's Hospital ought to ensure that in all serious operative cases the anaesthetic should be administered either by, or under the direct superintendence of, one of the staff of visiting anaesthetists, and that specially qualified resident anaesthetists ought to be appointed at large institutions such as Guy's, since it was often at night that the more difficult cases had to be dealt with. Since then they had until the past fortnight no deaths under anaesthesia at this institution. There were no reliable statistics at present as to deaths from anaesthetics; their occurrence was not invariably reported, and in the Registrar-General's returns the particular anaesthetic used was not disclosed. There were two defects in the bill regarding administration of anaesthetics now before the House of Commons. It was surely wrong that dentists with their limited clinical, anatomical, and surgical knowledge should be allowed to administer general anaesthetics unless they were fully qualified medical men, and nothing was said about the giving of local anaesthetics by injection. Cocaine, for instance, was a powerful poison, uncertain in its action, and in unskilled hands often dangerous in its effects. Co-operation in such cases between dentist and doctor would be to their advantage, and, what was of still more importance, would conduce to the safety of the public.

The Deputy Coroner for Bournemouth held an inquiry on July 24th into the circumstances attending the death of a woman aged 51, while undergoing a dental operation. The patient turned a bad colour when five or six teeth had been removed, and was promptly laid on the floor and subjected to artificial respiration. The anaesthetic was administered by a medical man, who said he had been giving anaesthetics for ten years successfully. In this case he gave nitrous oxide, followed by ether, and finally by "two or three whiffs of chloroform" to keep her under a little longer. Shortly after the extractions had begun collapse occurred, and the patient died in spite of all his efforts. The medical man who made an autopsy said the condition of the heart showed that it had failed in its action. A sister of the deceased, a trained nurse, who was present at the operation, deposed to the anaesthetic having been carefully, and as it appeared to her, skilfully administered. The jury returned a verdict of death from heart failure, exonerating the medical man from all blame.

In the Westminster Coroner's Court, on August 4th, another case of the same order was investigated, the deceased being a boy aged 13, the only son of Lord Lifford. It was stated that he had been in good general health, but three medical men in consultation had advised the removal of adenoids from the back of his throat and nose. The anaesthetist said that he had examined the patient on the day previous to the operation, and, except for the adenoids, found everything was normal, and the boy was quite confident and very cheerful. The anaesthetic (one part chloroform and two parts ether) was given on an open Skinner mask. It took about six minutes to get the boy under. One set of adenoids were then removed, and by way of preparing for the removal of the next, the witness was pumping the anaesthetic through a nasal tube, when breathing suddenly ceased. Oxygen was administered, and artificial respiration kept up for four and a half hours, but proved unavailing. Dr. Salisbury Trevor, pathologist to St. George's Hospital, said that on autopsy he found that death was due to failure of respiration in a patient suffering from the condition known as status lymphaticus, such failure being precipitated by the administration of the anaesthetic. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

#### ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST AN EDINBURGH HOSPITAL.

AN action by a patient against the Edinburgh Hospital and Dispensary for Women and Children for £100 damages, in respect of injury, has been decided by Sheriff Guy. The

pursuer, Mrs. Margaret Smith, claimed damages in respect of an injury received through being burned on the leg by a hot-water bottle while under the influence of an anaesthetic in the defenders' hospital. Sheriff Guy found for the pursuer, and awarded £25 damages. In a note he states that it is regrettable that the defenders should have allowed the case to go to a judgement, for it appeared to him that they had taken a completely erroneous view of the pursuer's legal position and claim, and endeavoured at all hazards to clear the hospital from any blame in the matter. When the case came to be defended the defenders were forced to admit that the pursuer was burned by the hot-water bottle, and their defence had been confined to showing that there was no negligence on the part of any one for whom they were responsible. All the witnesses for the defence excluded carelessness from their view, and were driven to account for the burn by the imaginary special susceptibility for burns which the pursuer possessed, but of which there was absolutely no proof. The defenders produced a hot-water bottle cover, as showing the kind of cover used in the hospital. It was, of course, impossible to expect that they should produce the actual cover; but if this cover was to be taken as a sample of the covers in actual use, he did not wonder that the pursuer was burned. He was not, of course, proceeding upon the condition of the wretched sample produced, but all that he could say was that if those responsible for the conduct of affairs in the defenders' hospital were careless enough to produce such a sample in a court of law, then it was to be presumed that they would be careless enough to use a cover in as bad a condition as the sample.

#### EXAMINATION OF INJURED WORKMAN.

SANTAS submits the following question: An insurance company recently asked C., a general practitioner who acts as referee for the company, to visit A., an injured workman, who was claiming compensation. On calling, C. was informed that A. was in the hospital, and on interviewing the house-surgeon and asking permission to see the patient, the house-surgeon demurred, suggesting that the company should arrange a consultation between C. and himself with a view to a joint report. C. thereupon wrote to the company explaining the situation.

\* \* We are of opinion that C. is entitled to a fee for his visit to the patient's home. It would perhaps have been better if C. had reported to the company the removal of the patient to the hospital and awaited instructions. If C. had received directions to visit and report on the patient at the institution and the house-surgeon had demurred, the patient's right to compensation or the proceedings under the workmen's compensation might be suspended until the examination had taken place.

## Universities and Colleges.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

NOTICE has been issued that preparations sent in competition for the Barker Anatomical Prize (£21) must be placed in charge of the Curator of the Museum on or before April 30th, 1910. The competition is open to all students whose names are on the anatomical class lists of a school in the United Kingdom; the part named for dissection being the cervical plexus. The marking scale is 60 for merit of dissection, 20 for excellence of setting, and 20 for originality. Unsuccessful competitors whose dissections show sufficient merit may be refunded such amount of the cost of their production as the examiners think fit. In virtue of the terms of the will of the late Dr. Barker, formerly curator of the museum of the college, the judges of the competition are the President and Curator of the College of Surgeons, and the Professor of Anatomy at Trinity College, Dublin. Further particulars as to the conditions of the competition can be obtained on application to the present Curator, Mr. A. H. White.

## Obituary.

OLD students of King's College must have read with regret the announcement of the death of ALFRED PHILIPPS, who, for more than thirty years held the responsible position of Resident Medical Officer of the Finsbury Dispensary. Dr. Philipps was painstaking, hardworking, and diligent; his chief aim—the goal of his ambition—was to relieve pain, to cure disease, and to prolong life; how far he succeeded, the thousands of patients whom he attended could testify. By his colleagues he was held in affectionate regard, and by the Committee of Management and Governors of the Institution he loved so well the highest respect and esteem was entertained for this eminently efficient officer. Dr.