

an opening was made into it. The patient quickly put on flesh, and soon only slight traces of pus were to be found in the urine. Later, some bagging of pus taking place in the most dependant part of the sac, the patient was placed under an anæsthetic, with a view of making a counter-opening into the vagina. The sound, however, in the bladder passed over to the right side of the pelvis, making it appear that it would be necessary to cut through this viscus in getting to the abscess. The attempt was consequently given up. The woman rapidly becoming worse through the pyrexia and rigors, it was determined, at all costs, to get an opening into the vagina. This was fortunately effected without wounding the bladder, and from that date the patient made an uninterrupted and rapid recovery. The case showed the important fact that an ovarian tumor may disappear if free drainage be made through it.

Diuretin is the name of a new preparation which has lately been introduced into clinical practice. Caffeine, both *per se* and in saline combination, has for some time past achieved a certain reputation as a diuretic, but nevertheless its action is not always a very reliable one. Theobromine, on the other hand, besides being until recently far more costly than caffeine, is practically almost insoluble in water, although it acts more powerfully upon the kidneys than the former alkaloid. Diuretin purports to be a species of double salt; in fact, a salicylate of theobromine and sodium, and is so readily soluble that it dissolves in half its own weight of water, and retains this large proportion even after cooling. The adult dose recommended is about 15 grs., but this quantity may be repeated five or six times in the course of the twenty-four hours.

It is stated that a medical man claims to have discovered a method of rendering tobacco harmless to the mouth, heart and nerves without detriment to its aroma. A piece of cotton wool, steeped in a solution of 5 to 10 per cent. of pyrogallic acid, inserted in the pipe or cigar holder, will neutralize any possible ill effects of nicotine. In this way not only may the generally admitted evils of smoking be prevented, but cirrhosis of the liver, headache, and furring of the tongue may be avoided. Citric acid, which was recommended by Vigier for the same purpose, has the serious disadvantage of spoiling the taste of the tobacco.

On July 4, an interesting ceremony took place at Marlborough House, when the Princess of Wales presented certificates of membership of the National Pension Fund for Nurses to representatives of the first thousand who joined the fund. The number of nurses present was about 700, and they were arranged in companies under the trees in the gardens behind Marlborough House. All the principal London, and many of the Provincial hospitals were represented, while here and there

were to be seen the special uniforms worn on foreign service. The royal party appeared on the steps leading from the conservatory shortly before 1 P.M., and as each nurse passed the steps she received her certificate from the hands of the Princess. Each certificate had been signed by the Princess of Wales, and stated that it was presented in testimony of the fact that the recipient was one of the first thousand nurses who joined the fund, and thus became one of the founders who secured £25,000 as the nucleus of a permanent fund for the benefit of the nurses of the British Empire.

G. O. M.

NEW INSTRUMENTS.

A NEW DILATOR FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBSTRUCTIVE DYSMENORRHOEA.

Read in the Obstetric Section of the Tenth International Congress, at Berlin, August, 1890.

BY THOMAS MORE MADDEN, M.D., F.R.C.S. ED.

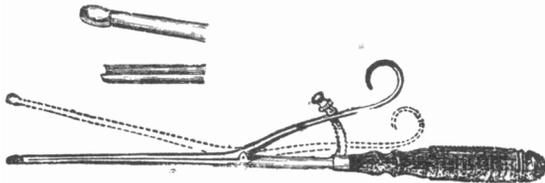
Physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, Dublin; Obstetric Physician and Gynecologist, Mater Misericordiae Hospital; Examiner Conjoint Board Royal College of Surgeons and Apothecaries' Hall, Ireland; Consultant National Lying-in Hospital; ex-President Obstetric Sections of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Ireland, and of the British Medical Association; formerly Vice-President British Gynecological Society; M.D. *Honoris Causa* Texas Medical College, Etc.

The following is an abstract:

In the recognition of obstruction from cervical stenosis as the chief cause of dysmenorrhœa, will be found the key to the pathology and successful treatment of this condition in the great majority of cases. Thus in my hospital practice during the past 20 years, nearly 11 per cent. of sterility similarly caused have come under observation in a total of nine thousand gynecological cases. Of all the ailments of female existence, few give rise to more persistent suffering, or produce more disastrous effects on the general health, and even on the cerebro-nervous system, or on the moral constitution of the patient, than does well-marked obstructive dysmenorrhœa. The latter consequence is more especially evident, in many cases of alcoholism, which in women may very frequently be dated from their first painful menstrual period, for the relief of which stimulants are too often improperly administered and repeated in increasing doses, until finally, in many cases, the victim of dysmenorrhœal alcoholism becomes a habitual, and, perhaps, an incurable drunkard.

It is not my purpose here to refer to the successive improvements which have since been effected in the methods of carrying out the gradual dilatation of the cervical canal, since the introduction into practice by Simpson and Sloan of sponge tents or laminaria bougies for this purpose. No greater improvement has occurred in

our branch of surgery than the replacement of these oftentimes unsatisfactory, possibly hazardous, or even fatal, and always painful procedures by the more effective means now at our disposal for the rapid expansion of this canal. Of these, perhaps the best known and most generally employed are either Hegar's, Duke's, or Lawson Tait's dilators. I now desire to call attention to another instrument which I have designed for the same purpose, and which, I venture to hope, may be found to supply a want still recognized by the gynecologists—namely, that of a reliable and effective means of securing the rapid and permanent dilatation of the cervical canal in the treatment of stenosis giving rise to the morbid conditions now under consideration. This instrument differs from other dilators in several respects, and, above all, in one which I consider



most important—viz.: in producing expansion of the canal from within outwards—in other words, in imitating the natural process of expansion from the uterine cavity downwards to the os uteri; whereas most other dilators, such as Hegar's, etc., act in the opposite direction. In my own hands the utility of this instrument, the expansion effected by which may be measured by the affixed index, has been fully tested in a very large number of cases of sterility and dysmenorrhœa in hospital and private practice. I may add that my dilator, which does not occupy more room than the ordinary sound when introduced, may also be used with advantage for the dilatation of the female urethra in many cases in which this procedure is indicated. This instrument has been carefully made in accordance with my directions by Messrs. Arnold & Sons, West Smithfield, London.

MISCELLANY.

ANTIVIVISECTION BITTERNESS.—The Society for the Protection of Animals from Vivisection recently held its annual Spring conference in London. The war-cry this year was "Pasteurism and Crime," and Canon Wilberforce is reported to have rejoiced in the fact that the movement to found a Pasteur Institute in England had been defeated by the society's method of placarding the city with large posters, containing the list of those who had died after treatment by the Pasteurian system. Many others indulged in bitter denunciation of both vivisection and Pasteurism, as being the means of brutalizing the otherwise honorable and useful profession of medicine.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

Dr. J. M. Batten, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. G. O. Mead, Newmarket, Eng.; Dr. C. W. Hitchcock, Detroit, Mich.; W. T. Keener, Dr. J. C. Hoag, Chicago; Copeland Townsend, W. H. Schieffelin & Co., Dr. S. T. McDermith, Thos. Leeming & Co., I. Haldenstein, Dr. R. B. James, F. M. Lupton, J. H. Bates, Dr. J. A. Cutter, Dr. S. T. Armstrong, Dr. W. R. Townsend, E. Steiger & Co., New York; The Upjohn Pill & Granule Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.; Battle & Co., Provident Chemical Works, St. Louis, Mo.; John Parmenter, Buffalo, N. Y.; Dr. W. H. Davies, Maquoketa, Ia.; Dr. L. G. North, Tecumseh, Mich.; Dr. E. Cheney, Dr. F. S. Parsons, Arena Pub. Co., National Typewriter Co., Boston, Mass.; Dr. S. C. Newlin, New Salem, Ind.; Dr. L. B. Grandy, Oxford, N. C.; Dr. D. B. Collins, Madison, Wis.; Dr. E. L. Jones, Florence, Ala.; Cincinnati Sanitarium, College Hill, O.; Dr. M. M. Lively, Hardyville, Ky.; Dr. H. M. Mixer, New Hampton, Ia.; Dr. F. Humbert, Alton, Ill.; Dr. H. H. Witherstine, Rochester, Minn.; Dr. W. Wyman, Washington, Dr. H. Judd, Galesburg, Ill.; Thos. F. Goode, Buffalo Lithia Springs, Va.; Dr. J. G. Carpenter, Stanford, Ky.; Dr. T. B. Greenley, West Point, Ky.; Allen & Yates, Buffalo, N. Y.; Sharp & Dohme, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. A. H. Hay, Racine, Wis.; Dr. D. Barrow, Lexington, Ky.; I. D. Holden, Stockton, Cal.; Dr. T. Legaré, Charleston, S. C.; P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia.; Dr. H. A. Clarke, Rockford, Ill.; Dr. E. S. Elder, Dr. L. H. Dunning, Indianapolis, Ind.; Dr. W. A. Dietrich, Lookout Mt., Tenn., Dr. Millard G. Peck, Dr. J. A. Robison, Chicago; Dr. H. B. Baker, Lansing, Mich.; Dr. E. A. Curry, Danville, Pa.; Dr. A. B. Patterson, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. J. D. Scouller, Pontiac, Ill.; Dr. C. Montezuma, W. Shoshone, Nev.; Dr. N. E. London, Newark, N. Y.; Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, N. J.; Dr. A. L. Hummel, M. J. Lawson, Philadelphia; Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris, France; Dr. J. L. McComas, Oakland, Md.; Dr. A. S. Kinnamann, West Salem, O.; Dr. J. H. Van Eman, Kansas City, Mo.; Dr. Tosubour, Beatrice, Neb.; College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Ia.; Dr. J. A. Crook, Jackson, Tenn.; Dr. J. H. Baxter, Washington; Dr. D. M. Wick, New Hartford, Ia.; Dr. J. A. Brobst, Macungie, Pa.; Dr. B. C. Anderson, Beardstown, Ill.; Dr. S. O. L. Potter, San Francisco, Cal.; Dr. J. S. Marshall, Cleveland, O.; Dr. W. C. Owen, Coquille City, Ore.; Dr. W. H. Myers, Longwood, Ill.; McIntosh Battery & Optical Co., Chicago; Dr. J. G. Hanks, Rays Hill, Pa.; Dr. R. S. Davis, Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. D. B. Collins, Madison, Wis.; Dr. J. B. Mattison, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. H. C. Jones, Decatur, Ill.; Dr. G. R. Wells, Livingston, Mont.; Dr. T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Conn.; Dr. Q. C. Smith, Austin, Tex.; Dr. C. E. Denison, Philadelphia; Dr. J. W. Stickler, Spring Lake, N. J.; Dr. T. H. Huzza, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. J. W. Shively, Washington; Dr. L. D. Mason, Greenwich, Conn.; Dr. W. M. Knapp, Asylum, Neb.; Dr. U. O. B. Wingate, Milwaukee, Wis.; Dr. D. R. Walker, Reeses Mills, Ind.; Dr. J. G. Meachem, Racine, Wis.; Dr. W. W. Hester, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. J. F. Blair, Linwood, O.; Dr. R. P. Crump, Njitta Yuma, Miss.

Official List of Changes in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Navy for the Week Ending August 9, 1890.

Medical Director P. S. Wales, ordered in charge of the Museum of Hygiene, Washington, D. C.
 Surgeon George A. Bright, ordered to the U. S. S. "Constellation."
 Surgeon B. S. Mackin, detached from the U. S. S. "Constellation," and to Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, for medical treatment.
 Surgeon E. Z. Derr, ordered to the U. S. S. "Minnesota."
 Surgeon J. R. Waggener, detached from the U. S. S. "Minnesota," and ordered to the U. S. S. "Kearsarge."
 Surgeon A. M. Moore, detached from the U. S. S. "Kearsarge," and granted three months' sick leave."