

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

AND

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

STEELE'S CHLORIDE OF LIME.

Messrs. J. C. STEELE AND Co., of Glasgow, have prepared a patent waterproof and air-tight packet of chloride of lime, which is convenient for disinfecting purposes. It keeps well even in a damp place, and until opened is quite free from odour.

EDWARDS'S DESICCATED SOUP.

We have received a sample of Edwards's desiccated soup, prepared by Messrs. Frederick King and Co., Limited, of Belfast, and Bishopsgate Avenue, London. Each pound should make six quarts of good soup, containing the equivalent of seven pounds of beef and six pounds of potatoes and other vegetables. It is portable, and will be found a great convenience to travellers and others to whom economy of space is essential.

BENGER'S PEPTONISED CHICKEN JELLY.

Messrs. MOTTERSHEAD AND Co., of Manchester, have recently brought out a new preparation, under the title of "Benger's peptonised chicken jelly." It is of good flavour, keeps well in any climate, and will be acceptable to invalids. Being prepared by the pancreatic method, on the same lines and in a similar manner to Benger's well-known peptonised beef jelly, it is readily absorbed by the stomach, and gives little or no work for the digestive organs to do.

A NEW AND IMPROVED CLAMP FOR HÆMORRHOIDS.

MR. R. FITZROY BENHAM (Park Street, Grosvenor Square) writes: As your correspondent, Mr. C. J. Smith, has sought to criticise my original invention for the above, I trust that, in justice to myself, you will permit me to offer a few remarks in reply thereto.

Prior to my invention I came to the conclusion that the cause of all of the very many ingenious clamps which had been constructed failing to effect sufficient parallel crushing power was the application of the force after the scissor fashion, notwithstanding that measures were adopted in many to ensure theoretically, but certainly not practically, that the jaws of the individual clamp should so approximate. I accordingly resolved to construct one to grasp the pile to be operated upon in the opposite direction, and on this principle effectual clamps could be made after various designs; but I felt that, in order to obtain a clamp of the simplest and yet most powerful description, it would be advisable to construct it in the shape of pincers, with the handles about four times the length of the other end, with the addition of a screw to be attached to the extremities of them (see the *Lancet*, vol. ii, 1880, pp. 1 and 158; also vol. i, 1882, p. 602). Now I maintain that your correspondent has grasped my idea of abandoning the scissor fashion, but has produced a clamp which I do not hesitate to characterise—having now had very large practical experience in the crushing operation of piles—as being most unreliable; and if he will kindly screw his clamp tightly together with a small mass, say, of brown paper, between the outer edges of the jaws, he will find that they will spring from the parallel direction, which I have not only again and again found to be the case, but which fact also is well known to every intelligent mechanic: hence the now almost obsolete pattern of the hammer-spanner used. But he has figured in his sketch the lip at the extremities of the jaws and V-shaped piece particularly mentioned by me in the *Lancet*, vol. i, 1882, p. 602. I also certainly do not agree with Mr. Smith that my clamp is unwieldy, and has fairly yielded to another; and I have yet to learn that his now almost obsolete, screw-hammer pattern has anything like the crushing power as compared with my clamp, apart from the most important fact that "the jaws do not approximate under pressure in a parallel direction." I confess that my clamp is somewhat heavy; but, considering that only one person is required to perform the operation with my clamp (a fact which was pointed out to me by my friend Mr. Masters), and he is not required to carry such an instrument in his waistcoat pocket, it is no drawback to it, provided its performance is effectual, which I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting to be the case.

DRUMINE.

DR. JOHN REID (Melbourne) sends in the following additional note on drumine: Drumine and its chloride are not volatile, but char by heat. Oxidising agents at ordinary temperatures do not seem to affect them; strong nitric acid dissolves, so does H_2SO_4 , without charring. $HgCl_2$ 2KI is not a delicate test in precipitation. KI strong solution causes ppte, and K Cy in neutral solution, which is dissolved in acid solution; salicylic acid causes crystalline ppte, the salicylate being somewhat insoluble in water. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., are now acting under Dr. Reid's directions, and are the only manufacturers in whose preparations of drumine confidence can, he writes, be placed. Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome inform us that they are willing to place samples at the disposal of experimenters; their address is Snow Hill Buildings, Holborn Viaduct.

A CHEAP MEDICINE-CHEST.

We have received from Mr. Lawrence, chemist (of Oban) a specimen of a cheap medicine-chest, which secured the first prize offered by the *Chemist and Druggist*. It is a neat and portable box, fitted with a dozen well-stoppered bottles, and is sold at a moderate price, which varies according to the drugs chosen.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1887.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1887 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches, are requested to forward their remittances to the General Secretary, 429, Strand, London. Post-office orders should be made payable at the West Central District Office, High Holborn.

The British Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1887.

THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND THE PROFESSION.

THE struggle between the Council of the College of Surgeons and its constituents—the great bulk of the profession—which the unyielding and high-handed course adopted by the Council has rendered inevitable, has now commenced by the public announcement on the part of the Council that it has adopted the report of its "Committee on Charters and By-laws," and is about to take the necessary steps immediately for obtaining a new charter from the Privy Council. This means, in effect, that the Council of the College has rejected every substantial reform which has been asked for by its constituents, except the Fellows' privilege of voting by proxy papers—and even this small concession has only been wrung from it by an agitation protracted over many years. All the more important demands of the profession, as formulated in meetings of the Fellows and Members, called by the President and Council to discuss College affairs in the College, have been met by a blank refusal. The tenure of the great office of President is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and leads to a state of things whereby the government of the College is far too much in lay hands; yet the Council will do nothing to amend it. The mode of election of the President has become so much a matter of routine as to deprive it of all dignity and all honour, yet the Council steadily refuses even to consider any method whereby the election can be made more of a reality. The College is entering into most important relations with the College of Physicians, and is, in connection with that body, pursuing a course towards the Apothecaries' Society leading directly to a perpetuation of the "double portal" to medical diplomas, which a very large proportion (we believe a great majority) of the profession wished to see closed. Yet the Council steadily refuses to consult its constituents on these or any other matters of great public moment, excepting such illusory and empty consultation as takes place after the matter has been settled, and at meetings in which the Council preserves an unbroken silence. The College has come (or will come immediately) into the possession of very large wealth; yet its constituents are to have no voice in the distribution of those funds, which may all be wasted on objects with which the great body of the profession has no concern whatever, for anything that anyone outside the Council Chamber can do. We call the bulk of the profession "the constituents" of the Council advisedly, since it is by their funds that the College has been constituted and built up, and it is on their numbers, influence, and