

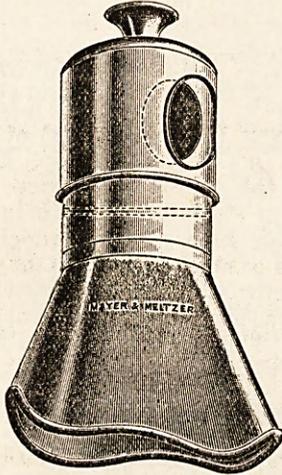
RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' DEPARTMENT.

AN ALL-METAL INHALER.

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The apparatus consists of three parts: The face-piece, anæsthetic chamber, and a metal cap.

The metal cap fits on to the anæsthetic chamber and has a large aperture on the side. This aperture, when the cap is in position, fits exactly over a similar



opening in the anæsthetic chamber. By rotating this cap the strength of the vapour administered can be increased or diminished as desired. In the dome of the cap there is a small permanent airway. The

anæsthetic chamber is a hollow metal cylinder open at both ends; one end receives the face-piece, the other is in contact with the dome of the metal cap. It is loosely packed with coarse sponge or gauze, maintained in position by a single metal bar running across the middle of the lower orifice. The face-piece fits into the anæsthetic chamber by bayonet joints; it is so moulded as to fit closely the curves of the average face. Very little anæsthetic is needed to induce or maintain anæsthesia.

The following advantages are claimed for this inhaler. There is an adjustable airway by means of which the strength of the vapour administered can be regulated. It is economical, as there is no overflow of the anæsthetic from the sponge or gauze. It is very easy to handle and is perfectly balanced; with the largest face-piece it only measures 6 inches in height.

By having three different-sized face-pieces a perfect fit is obtained. The bore of the inhaler is large and uniform throughout. I have found it particularly useful in the administration of the E.C. ether sequence to children. It is easily taken to pieces for cleaning and sterilisation. A bag can be attached for the administration of ethyl chloride as a preliminary to ether. The inhaler was made for me by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, 171 Great Portland Street.

TESTIMONIALS.

It is quite an education to read testimonials: they are indeed human documents. They not only unfold the life story and character of the recipient, but also recall the manner of the giver. Unfortunately they do not always "proclaim the man" with the same degree of accuracy as Shakespeare ascribes to apparel; moreover it can hardly be said that their "quality is not strained" nor yet do they always "bless him who gives nor him who takes." Certainly the writing of testimonials is not an easy matter, especially in those frequently occurring cases when the subject is a man whose connection with the writer has been but slender or took place years ago. Then it is we come across the more or less ambiguous expressions such as "was an easy man to work with," was "well received by my patients." Many testimonials defeat their object by extravagant wording; even those in high places at the present day have been known to sin in this respect; curiously enough the surgeons seem to be more often guilty than the physicians. Of course, to some extent, a testimonial is to be regarded as an advertisement, and some latitude must be allowed in order to avoid any suggestion of "damning with faint praise," but references to "profound knowledge," "unremitting solicitude," and a frequent use of the superlative do depreciate greatly the value of the testimonial. Under present conditions the testimonial system still flourishes, and is, perhaps,

a necessary evil; there is no doubt that it often becomes an unmitigated nuisance. What with the applications from newly-qualified men, almost forgotten old students, nurses, and sisters, one can easily imagine that a popular member of the staff of a hospital may well wish for some other less tiresome method of recording his opinion. It has been suggested that some sort of schedule, such as is in common use in Germany, might be made applicable to junior medical men. It would form a permanent record and be endorsed suitably at the end of each appointment by members of the staff or by the principal of a private practice.

A word of warning may be given to intending applicants for testimonials: do not ask for "just a few words" directly after passing the final; wait until there is a definite object in view. Sometimes men ask for testimonials before they have decided what to do; they seem to regard the possession of a collection as a fitting way to round off their school career. These testimonials are the most difficult to write and are the least valuable. But, above all, they are often unused while they are recent on account of the owner taking a house appointment in his own hospital or locums, or getting some work through friends, and so a great amount of trouble is caused unnecessarily. Later on they are not wanted because they do not mention what the applicant has done since qualification, and he does not