or aspiration of pseudo-membrane in young children; pneumography after insufflation of bismuth subcarbonate or lipiodol. Diagnosis of pulmonary abscess and asthma in young children should not be made without excluding the possibility of foreign body. Great gentleness must be observed in handling babies. Bronchoscopy is contra-indicated in moribund patients, in cases of lung abscess likely to perforate into the pleura, and in diffuse pneumonitis. A bibliography is added. ANGUS A. CAMPBELL.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Stovain in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. FRANCIS MUECKE, C.B.E., F.R.C.S. (*Brit. Med. Journ.*, 25th September 1926.)

After extensive use of stovain for a year the author came to the conclusion that "it deserves as big a place in the world of local anæsthetics as cocain and novocain." It was used for cauterisations, turbinectomies, submucous resections and tonsil dissections with very good results. There was less vasoconstriction than cocain produces, and in some operations, the stimulant effect of cocain was missed. The removal of bone in the septum operation was more painful than when cocain is used, and in tonsillectomy there was more bleeding than with novocain. As a laryngeal spray he found stovain excellent. For purely mucous membrane work it is probably better than cocain.

T. RITCHIE RODGER.

TWO NEW INSTRUMENTS.

By H. ROSS SOUPER, Aberdeen.

1. *Septum Needle.*—In suturing the septal flaps after a submucous resection or any similar operation where an intranasal suture is required, I have found that the use of a hollow needle, as suggested by Mr Frank Wilson, is the simplest method. Finding, however, that the use of a *straight* hypodermic or serum syringe needle is often rather difficult, and that other available types of curved needle are unsatisfactory, I have had made for me the curved hollow needle here illustrated.



In presence of the illustration no long description is necessary. I need only say that the needle is of stainless steel and of a calibre sufficient to take horsehair, ophthalmic silkworm gut, or No. 000 catgut. The proximal end of the needle is smoothly funnel-shaped so that the passage of the suture is in no way impeded; and the needle itself, while having a certain degree of "spring," is firmly held in its handle, which is 3 inches in length. The radius and arc of the curve were adopted as the most suitable only after a considerable number of trials.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215100030413 Published online by Cambridge University Press