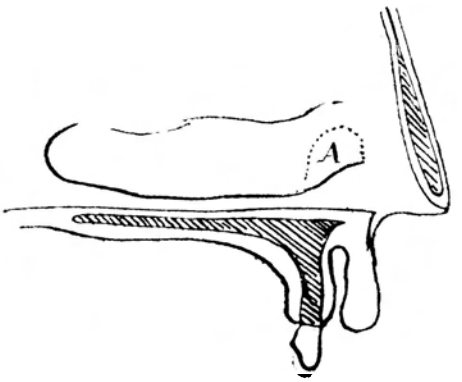
ANNOTATIONS.

A Simple Method for Preventing the Dimming of Mirrors.

Mr. George Wallis, Dental Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, recently drew the attention of his colleagues to a simple method of preventing the dimming of throat, dental, or other mirrors by the breath of the patient. It consists simply in rubbing the glass all over with a piece of ordinary dry soap. The film of soap left on the mirror is wiped off by means of a soft rag or handkerchief, and it is then found that the mirror can be breathed on without any cloudiness resulting. The observation, whether original or not, is not, however, by any means well known, and we feel grateful to Mr. Wallis for communicating it to us. No doubt its sphere of usefulness is somewhat limited, because where a succession of patients are passed in review, the necessary sterilization of the mirror by means of antiseptic liquid involves a repetition of the soaping, and, of course, if sterilization in the lamp flame is employed, the soaping process is unnecessary. It often happens, however, that it is inconvenient to have a lamp at hand for the heating of the mirror, as, for instance, where sunlight or electric light is used for illumination, and under these circumstances, especially if only one patient is to be examined, Mr. Wallis's process will be found of the utmost value. Those who wear eyeglasses or spectacles will in this process find a ready means of ridding themselves of the annoyance caused by the clouding of their glasses when they drink hot liquids. *Dundas Grant.*

Removal of the Anterior Extremity of the Inferior Turbinate as an Alternative of Turbinectomy.

The main reason for bringing forward this treatment, which I have followed for some time with good results, is to suggest to the advocates of total removal, the advantage in a large number of these cases of nasal obstruction from inferior turbinal hypertrophy, of a conservative treatment; this has for its object the preservation



of the physiological uses the body normally possesses, and also the advantage of not precluding more radical measures.

The operation itself is simple, and can always be performed under cocaine anæsthesia, and can be done either by means of a strong pair of artery forceps, by punch forceps, or scissors and snare. The writer always uses the former. The accompanying figure shows diagramatically the part of the bone removed. It is

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300164947 Published online by Cambridge University Press

frequently advisable to trim up the part by removing any small irregularities with punch forceps. *R. Lake.*

EUCAINE.

This local anæsthetic has received such laudatory notice that from the very nature of things one expects almost a rush of warnings and unfavourable opinions, and this is borne out by the appearance of such notes, by Scheppegrell and others, transient ambliopia being quoted by one author in "The Journal," Feb., 1897, and in the epitome of a recent number of the "British Medical Journal" a further series of warnings are given. The writer had recently a case in which troublesome symptoms occurred, viz., vertigo, faintness, and a most distressing feeling of tightness across the chest; brandy, however, as is the case with cocaine, soon relieved the patient. But one cannot help feeling that it is better, however enthusiastic one may be, to be quite sure before giving to the general profession results which may prove fallacious. *R. Lake.*

NEW PREPARATIONS.

COMPOUND PHENACETIN TABLOIDS. (Burroughs, Wellcome, & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C.)

These tabloids are compounded on the same principle as were those of caffeine and antipyrin. We cannot naturally add anything to that already known about these drugs, but since phenacetin possesses an acknowledged tendency to cardiac depression the addition of caffeine will be often of great benefit.

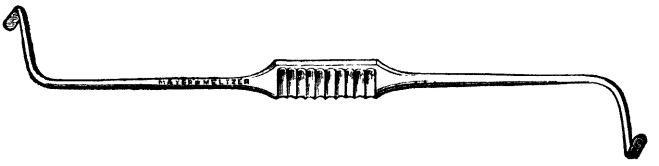
"BRANALCANE." (Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co., 43, Cannon St., Londo E.C.)

This compound, of which we have had a sample, is said to be made of boroglyceride and two non-poisonous antiseptic tar products. It is, of course, in the nature of a patent or secret preparation, and that alone precludes its use by us in the majority of the diseases and disorders which it is said to cure. From our limited tests (limited by the above-mentioned cause) we must express our opinion that branalcane is an unirritating antiseptic, and will be of great use as a household remedy for thrush and suchlike minor ailments.

NEW INSTRUMENT.

MASTOID ANTRUM GUIDE (DOUBLE). By R. LAKE, F.R.C.S. (Mayer & Meltzer, 71, Great Portland Street, London.)

This instrument is an improvement on my first antrum guide. The edges of the foot-plate are blunter, and the two instruments right and left are now combined. The curve of the foot-plate is such as to fit it into the *iter ad antrum* when the handle of the instrument is held parallel to the zygoma.



Witherby & Co., Printers, 326, High Holborn, W.C.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300164947 Published online by Cambridge University Press