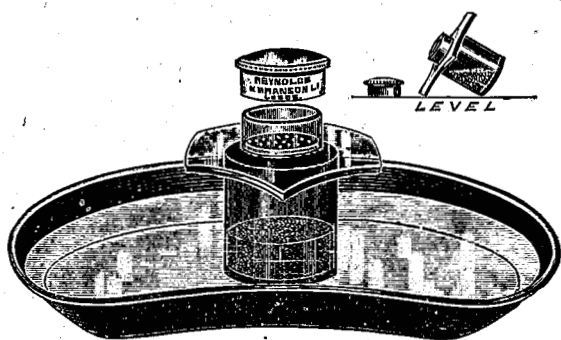


New Preparations, Inventions, etc.

AN ASEPTIC DREDGER.

WE have received from Messrs. Reynolds and Branson, Ltd., 13, Briggate, Leeds, a firm well known for the ingenuity of their surgical appliances, an aseptic dredger, designed by a medical man, who holds that the whole procedure of an aseptic operation breaks down when the surgeon takes hold of a dredger which is surgically unclean. The one under consideration is made of transparent celluloid, and can easily be rendered



aseptic, and is so made and weighted as to keep its equilibrium in lotion of shallow depth, or to float in a deeper basin. A projecting rim keeps the head of the bottle above water, and also prevents the surgeon's wet hand from damping the powder. A closely-fitting cap covers the perforated disc, and when this is *in situ*, the whole appliance can be immersed. We have pleasure in directing attention to the many excellencies of this dredger.

FORMIC SULPHUGATORS.

Everyone knows the value of Sulphur for disinfection purposes. Most trained nurses are aware of the remarkably powerful properties possessed by formic aldehyde in destroying germ life. The Sanitas Company, which deservedly occupies the foremost place amongst the manufacturers of disinfectants in this country, if not in the world, has recently introduced a most portable and valuable candle which combines the properties of Sulphur and Formic Aldehyde, and which has been patented under the name of Formic Sulphugators. One of these candles lighted and allowed to burn out in a hermetically closed room of ordinary size would be sufficient to completely and effectually disinfect it.

The same Company has also recently patented a "Formic" Air-Purifier. This is an automatic appliance, which has been designed for continuously purifying the air of rooms, W.C.'s, and

lavatories by means of Formic Aldehyde, and consists of a porous block contained within a metal cage, which may be hung up or stood in convenient places. As sold, the block is heavily charged with a volatile preparation which continuously evolves the vapour of Formic Aldehyde. To renew the activity of the appliance, the cavity in the porous block should be filled from time to time—once a week or so—with the "Formic Renovator Fluid," which is expressly prepared for the purpose. These valuable disinfectants can be obtained from any chemist, or direct from the Sanitas Company, Bethnal Green, London, E.

"In the Commons."

A SANITARY COMMISSION.

Sir Walter Foster made an interesting contribution to the discussion on Army Medical affairs. He pointed out the alarming growth of enteric among the troops according to the latest returns, and advocated the establishment of a Sanitary Commission in order to obviate this enormous loss of life in future.

THE HOSPITALS COMMISSION.

In answer to Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Balfour informed the House that he had been informed by the members of the South African Hospitals Commission, that they hoped to be in a position to present their report early in the ensuing year.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to Sir J. Tuke, said:—"The question of the liability of the Royal Colleges of Physicians in London and Edinburgh to pay corporation duty was raised by the Board of Inland Revenue in 1894, but was disputed by the colleges. It was allowed to remain in abeyance pending a decision on a similar claim made on the Royal College of Surgeons, which has since been decided in favour of the Crown by the Court of Appeal. Following this decision the Board of Inland Revenue feel compelled to press their claims on the Royal Colleges of Physicians. The facts of the case differ from those in the case of the Royal Institution of Civil Engineers.

RATING OF HOSPITALS.

Mr. Long, in answer to Mr. Horner, said that the question of the exemption from rates of hospitals and kindred institutions was one of considerable difficulty, and formed part of a subject under consideration by the Royal Commission on Local Taxation. He could not at present give his hon. friend any promise as to its being dealt with by the Government.

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