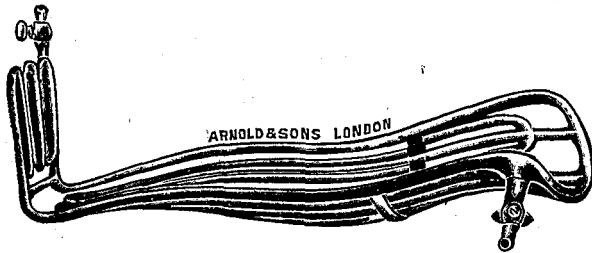


## Practical Points.

Dr. J. F. Halls Dally writes in the *British Medical Journal*:—The accompanying illustration represents a form of splint which has been devised for the purpose of supplying continuous heat to a portion of the lower limb. It is of the posterior gutter variety with rectangular footpiece, and consists of parallel lengths of lead piping which join a marginal tube, having at its proximal extremity a tap to which may be attached an indiarubber tube and funnel. Another piece of indiarubber tubing is attached to the tap on the footpiece, and leads into a receiver which catches the overflow. The funnel is raised above the level of the tap attached to the footpiece, both taps being open, and boiling water is run in. As soon as the splint is full, the water runs out of the tube attached to the footpiece. Both taps are then closed. The splint is previously lined with flannel to the required thickness, and by periodic renewal of the hot



water supply, which can be accomplished without disturbing the patient, the flannel is heated, and continuous dry heat thus applied to the limb. This latter is immobilised in the splint by some form of suitable appliance, and, if necessary, its anterior surface is enveloped in some non-conducting material. The splint may be also used for the continuous application of cold, after the manner of Leiter's coil. Reference to a case of post-typhoid venous thrombosis, under the care of Mr. Keetley, in which this splint was used with advantage for the purpose of supplying continuous heat, will be found in the *West London Medical Journal*, vol. xi., 1906, p. 330. This splint has been made to my design by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, E.C.

We are indebted to Dr. Halls Dally for permission to reproduce the splint.

### An Ear Mop.

A good substitute for a camel hair brush can be made by twisting a small square of absorbent wool round an ordinary match (minus the sulphur tip) (as Fig. A). The match dressed as Fig. B makes a good ear mop; this I first saw used as a means of cleaning septic hæmorrhoids (the result of prolonged dysentery), and as a large number were always ready, the fingers never touched the dis-

charge; each mop was flung away as soon as used. (In the tropics things are not so readily to be got as at home, and when found are expensive, so that the doctors devise many substitutes.)

Another "tip" I have learned from a Mauri-



tian medical man is that 15 to 20 drops of castor oil given in half a teaspoonful of olive oil to a baby of from one to six weeks is quite as effective a purge as a teaspoonful of pure castor oil.

ISABEL H. PENNIE.

On a visit to an eye and ear hospital recently there was noticed an arrangement for keeping hot compresses to the eye that is worth passing on. Instead of having a nurse stay by the patient, a little gas burner was placed on a zinc-topped table by the bedside. In a basin with boracic acid solution were a number of the little gauze sponges ready for application. On the patient's own table a thick folded bath towel that had been sterilised was laid, with a pair of long dressing forceps. The patient was instructed as the compress needed changing to fish one out of the basin, press it between the folds of the sterilised bath towel, instead of squeezing it with his hand, and then to apply it, throwing the compress that had been used into a receptacle provided.

Every home should have in convenient places some means of fighting fire. Probably the most convenient are hand grenades—not the kind that you buy, but the home-made ones at the cost of a few cents and a little trouble. Take twenty parts of unslacked lime, five parts of common salt, and dissolve in seventy-five parts of water. When thoroughly dissolved pour into thin bottles and cork tight. If a fire occurs, break one or two bottles into it and the mixture will smother it out, even when it has gained considerable proportions."

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