

## Practical Points.

### The Perkins Patent Belt.

We have much pleasure in directing attention to a new form of abdominal belt—the "Perkins Patent Belt"—which is designed on an entirely different principle from any which have heretofore been put on the market. It has been much approved by members of the medical profession, and patients for whom it has been ordered speak with much gratitude of the comfort they have found in its use. The points specially worthy of note are:—

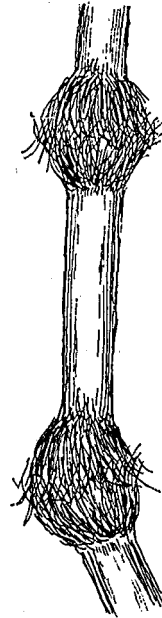
1. The belt can be worn with any corset without inconvenience, and the wearing of understraps is quite unnecessary.
2. It can be adjusted when the patient is dressed, and as easily removed. This is a great convenience when the belt is only required to be worn when the wearer is taking exercise, or likely to be standing long.
3. It can be made in various forms to meet the necessities of different complaints such as umbilical hernia, appendicitis, etc. It is also of use in pregnancy, for those to whom walking is difficult, in helping to relieve the weight. It appears to us to be invaluable in this connection.
4. A most noteworthy point is that the belt gives the abdomen support from below, whereas the pressure applied by most abdominal belts is in a downward direction. This is a point which should be noted. The result is that patients who find other abdominal supports uncomfortable, so that they spend much time lying down to avoid their use, find the comfort of the Perkins belt, which by applying the pressure differently prevents much of the "dragging" so often felt on standing or walking by those who find a belt necessary.
5. Patients suffering from eczema of the groin frequently find relief as the surfaces are kept apart by it.
6. As the belt is formed on the pneumatic principle it is light and hygienic. It is made in indiarubber, usually about 3½ inches wide, and may be covered in any material, such as satin, coutil, or cotton.

The sole makers are Alfred Cox and Sons, surgical instrument makers, 120, New Bond Street, London, W. We should advise nurses to make a point of inspecting this very clever invention.

The Hamburg - American line has, says the *Bourse Courier*, bought the patent of Dr. Schlick's gyroscope appliance for steadying ships, and ordered one to be built at a cost of seven thousand five hundred pounds for one of their steamers. Those who have seen a boy's top gyroscope, a wheel spinning within a wheel, the axles being at right angles, will remember that it keeps steady in any position, and when inserted spinning in its box keeps that box absolutely steady even if standing on an edge or corner. Similarly, Mr. Brennan uses a gyroscope to steady his train which runs on one rail. Dr. Schlick's invention is of the same character. Tried in a German torpedo-boat, it practically stopped rolling, leaving only a gentle heaving motion.

### The Care of the Hair.

The care of the hair is a point which concerns everyone, and a book on "The Hair and Its Diseases," by Dr. David Walsh, recently published by Messrs. Balliere, Tindall, and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., should be of widespread interest.



HAIR AFFECTED BY TRICHORHEXIS NODOSA.

The author states that while much remains to be learned concerning the maladies that affect the hair, yet great strides have been made of late years, thanks chiefly to the study of bacteriology, which has revolutionised medical views as to its cure both in health and disease. He insists that the state of the hair is closely related to that of the general health. For instance, the hair of a blonde lady turned several degrees lighter with each one of a series of attacks of influenza. Again, in a great majority of sufferers from seborrhœa, and its associated troubles of the hair—namely, thinness, greyness, and baldness—there is a history of rheumatism or a rheumatic tendency, while anæmia, indigestion, chronic constipation, and other disorders play an important part in its symptomatic diseases. It follows that advice concerning the treatment of the hair should be sought from physicians rather than hairdressers. The accompanying illustration is one of a hair affected by trichorhexis nodosa, a rare disease which is classed among the nodular parasitic diseases of the hair, though so far no micro-organism has been identified as its cause. It affects the hair of both men and women, and though usually met with in the beard and moustache, may occur in the eyebrows, head, or any other part of the body. The ends of the hairs become frayed, and their shafts are dotted irregularly with greyish white nodules. An affected hair can easily be broken off at one of these little swellings. Treatment consists in shaving the affected area and the use of stimulant anti-parasiticide applications, with attention to the general health.

### Ventilation in Incubators.

Dr. De Lee, who speaks from a wide experience, looks upon the incubator as an essential factor in the care of premature children. Holt and Edgar, equally good authorities, are sceptical as to its value. Tarnier, who was one of the first to use it, publishes statistics which prove conclusively its efficiency. The chief criticisms are that the ventilation is uncertain, and that there is danger of infection being carried from one occupant to the next. These are just criticisms and should be kept in mind by those who have the care of these cases, though they may be entirely obviated by careful attention.

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