

some well-known works ; but with an experience extending over the removal of many thousand individual hairs, the writers strongly recommend the former as being the only satisfactory and reliable one, having regard particularly to the prospect of complete and permanent destruction of the growth.

(2) THE NÆVIPUNCT.

The same instrument may be used in very similar fashion for the destruction of small growths either on the skin or mucous membranes, and it is with the purpose of being able to attack nævus and other developments covering a larger surface that the nævipunct has been devised. This replaces the single needle, and, from the possibility of arranging the separate needles to cover *exactly* a surface of any shape (or size, the instrument being correspondingly enlarged, in so far as its area and number of needles is concerned), the necessity of repeated insertions of the instrument at a single sitting is obviated. Cases of port-wine stain of any extent may thus be satisfactorily treated.

(3) THE BOUGIE ELECTRODE.

The bougie electrode is an instrument of rapidly-increasing usefulness, and its proper, careful, and successful application in cases of stricture of rectum, urethra, and œsophagus is already well recognised as giving results far in advance of other and older plans of slow and rapid dilatation.

In such cases a pad is connected with the positive pole as before, and the bougie electrode by means of its screw (*r*) is placed in communication with the negative pole of the battery. The metal knob (*h*) being placed immediately at the seat of contraction a small current—two to six *m.a.* or more—is passed through the lesion for a period of one, two, three or more minutes, as the nature of the case and the forbearance of the operator may dictate. The sittings may be repeated as frequently as needed for complete dilatation, and at such intervals as the experience of the operator may lead him to consider safe, but as operations such as these can only be performed by Surgeons, it is unnecessary to weary the reader with further detail.

§ The instances here given are intended only as typical examples of the numerous and frequently successful uses to which the Surgical electrode has been applied, and we trust that those who feel interested in this department of work will not be content with a superficial acquaintance with the methods recommended, but will take every opportunity of obtaining practical acquaintance, not only with the operations themselves, but with the management and control of the apparatus needed—for in scarcely any depart-

ment of surgical work is a mastery of the instruments employed more imperative than in that at which our space permits us to take only a passing glance, and for which the future holds triumphs as yet undreamt of in our philosophy.

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

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NOW is the time when the middle-class Briton who can afford it, with many whose means should keep them at home, packs up his babies and other baggage, and forsaking his more or less comfortable house, takes possession for two or three months of somebody else's house, for which, with heroic extravagance, he pays the double or the treble of his own annual rent.

This summer exodus is as much a confirmed custom as going to church. It is a fashion which must be observed if one is to keep his proper place in "Society," and it is, moreover, highly commended by the Doctor, who is himself, as a rule, careful to avoid it.

Whether a custom, which was hardly begun two generations ago, is due to the influence of the Doctors, or to imitation of the people who have town and country houses, or partly to both, does not much matter. It is enough that it has grown to be part of the duty which genteel families must every summer discharge; that it has put fortunes in the pockets of the landlords, builders, and lodging-house keepers; and that every year sees an increase in the numbers who observe it.

Evil-minded people there are who say that the Doctors have invented the fashion for the sake of bringing back from badly-drained little towns and villages crops of fevers and other diseases which do not properly flourish in cities that enjoy the unspeakable blessing of bailies and sanitary committees. But this is a slander. There could be no better proof of it than that about this time every year the medical journals become so eloquent on the risk which the tenants of lodging-houses run, and suggest so many precautions against the surprises of infectious and contagious disease, that the mere reading of them is enough to keep people of ordinary prudence at home.

It cannot be said that the annual warnings of the Medical journals have much effect upon the exodus. The average Briton, in fairly good health, is not easily alarmed by tales of germs and microbes. What he does not smell in drains he

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