

It is only adapted for very small stones, but the beauty of its contrivance is, that the simple pressure of the palm of the hand is sufficient to crush the stone when within the curved blades of the instrument. No screw is required, and as I have seen him use it, a single crushing has generally proved sufficient to get rid of the stone. It is hardly fair to cut a child for a stone not larger than an apple pip, or a small bean, yet it can be readily got rid of by employing such a lithotrite as that figured. Amongst the out patients of our hospitals, if there are any symptoms in children that lead to the suspicion of calculus, an examination is at once made, and if there is one, and the size permits of it, lithority is immediately resorted to. Although as a rule lithotomy in children is almost invariably successful, it is as well to avoid its performance, unless lithority cannot be practised.

In the *Lancet* of this day are several editorial articles strongly approving of the plan about to be adopted by the College of Physicians of granting a license to practise Surgery, which they have the power to do. This is coming to the one faculty system; I shall refer to it in my next letter.

I may as well mention here that a good deal of uncertainty exists as to what will really be the form of national monument to be erected to the memory of the late Prince Consort. There is a strong disposition to go back to the original idea of a monolith or obelisk of gigantic dimensions, but the fear was entertained that a block of stone sufficiently gigantic could not be obtained in this country. It appears however from a report of a meeting of the Committee in the *Times* of the 8th March last, that single stones of large dimensions are by no means difficult to be obtained. The Ross of Mull Granite company state that they can supply a monolith of red granite larger than any known column in existence. The obelisk in front of the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg, they say, is the largest one in Europe, measuring 93 feet. They state that they can exceed that by at least 7 feet in length, and with a corresponding excess in diameter. This stone, said to have been hitherto unnoticed, is reported by their manager, Mr. Marshall, to have been discovered in the Tunmore locality, and what is still more remarkable, to be already quarried on 3 sides. It is described moreover, as lying just at the surface of the ground, with a fine open field in front on which it could be rolled out and "scabbled". It has an even surface, is quiet detached at top and bottom, is perfectly sound, and of a good red colour. It is upwards of 100 feet in length, and will average about twelve feet in diameter. The column at St. Petersburg, they state, measures 12 feet at the base, and only 4 feet at the top; its height being 93 feet. The difficulties which the committee have to consider, and they are enormous, are first the quarrying of a monolith of the desired dimensions, than of transporting it to its ultimate destination and finally of rearing it. At a rough estimation it would weigh some 600 tons. It remains to be seen what the exercise of engineering skill will accomplish in this matter, if the final choice should be, what we all hope, an obelisk.

The stereoscope is no doubt familiar enough to most of your readers. A new instrument has been invented called the *Neomonascope* to show the album photographic portraits with stereoscopic effect, and forming a small case to carry them in the pocket. It is sold for 3s. by Heath and Beau of Regent Street.