

nature of the foreign body and from the coexistence of pregnancy, as to the motives that had suggested its use. It had probably been in the bladder about two months, judging by the quantity of phosphates by which it was encrusted. The bougie, as usually happens, was coiled up into one mass; and the ivory handle, being free and uncoated, gave a clear and distinct click to the sound.

With respect to the operation, Mr. Erichsen performed urethrotomy instead of dilating the urethra, as he thought that, as the mass was rather large, the canal might be over-stretched, and incontinence would then result. The cut in the urethra was immediately closed by silver sutures.—*British Medical Journal.*

---

#### PROFESSOR TYNDALL ON DISEASE AND SMOKE.

The able lecture of Professor Tyndall at the Royal Institution, which we lately noticed in the MEDICAL PRESS, has been published in our excellent contemporary, *Nature*. We take from that Report a few passages to show how the lecturer first of all dealt with the germ theory of disease, and then passed on to describe a practical illustration of how his views on dust and smoke had enabled him to construct a fireman's respirator, which promises to be of the greatest value.

As regards the lowest forms of life, the world is divided, and has for a long time been divided into two parties, the one affirming that you have only to submit absolutely dead matter to certain physical conditions to evolve from it certain living things; the others, without wishing to set bounds to the power of matter, affirming that in our day no life has ever been found to arise independently of pre-existing life. Many of you are aware that I belong to the party which claims life as a derivative of life. The question has two factors: the evidence, and the mind that judges of the evidence. and you will not forget that it may be purely a mental set or bias on my part that causes me throughout this discussion from beginning to end, to see on the one side dubious facts and defective logic, and on the other side firm reasoning and a knowledge of what rigid experimental inquiry demands. But judged of practically, what, again, has the question of Spontaneous Generation to do with us? Let us see. There are numerous diseases of men and animals that are demonstrably the