

M. TROUVE'S NEW POLYSCOPE.—This instrument, which serves for a laryngoscope, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, and urothroscope, represents when closed a case seven inches long by one inch and a quarter in diameter. The two parts comprising it carry each a lens at their opposite extremities—the one two and a half inches, and the other three and a half. In the lids which close the case, two mirrors are placed, the one plane, the other concavo, both being pierced in the centre. The case contains—
1. Two larynx mirrors with handle. 2. Three ear-speculums. 3. A photophor or candlestick with three branches, terminating on the side of the light by a vent, which at the same time does for a reflector, the photophor can ascend to the height of fifteen and three-quarter inches.—*N. Y. Medical Journal.*

EFFECT OF ELECTRICITY ON THE UTERINE CONTRACTIONS.—Dr. de Saint Germain has proved conclusively, from his recent experiences, that electricity does not provoke uterine contractions when they have not yet spontaneously appeared, but that it quickens them when the pains have begun, the placenta, as a general rule, being immediately expelled after the birth of the child. This rapid expulsion of the after-birth appears to constitute one of the most important applications of the electric current. Dr. Radford had already used this means to arrest hæmorrhages connected with delivery, likewise Dr. Barnes to counteract the effects of uterine inertia.

The *British Medical Journal* expresses the hope that "it will not be long before every intelligent mother of a family is familiar with the use of the thermometer for the discovery of disease. In many respects, it is far more reliable than the tongue or the pulse. As a means of ascertaining when it is desirable to consult a doctor, and when advice may be deferred with safety, it would be invaluable. By its aid the difference between insignificant skin-rashes, which will disappear in a day or two, and those which imply a constitutional fever, may usually be satisfactorily determined. Under many circumstances, the early discovery that a child was sickening for scarlatina or measles might be of great importance. We hope that before long a few brief rules adapted for home employment will be prepared, and that, aided