OBITUARY.—Mr. J. F. Marson, who has for forty years been resident-surgeon at the Small Pox and Vaccination Hospital, Holloway, died last month. He had long been known as one of the highest authorities on the subject of vaccination and small-pox.

DEATH FROM A NEEDLE.—A case is reported in which a patient died from hæmorrhage from a punctured wound in the aorta caused by a sewing needle which had been swallowed. Part of the needle was embedded in the œsophagus.

At the Pathological Society of London, Dr. Pearson Irvine lately showed a specimen of an aneurism in the cavity of an abscess in the liver. Dr. Douglas Powell showed a specimen of a small aneurism on the wall of an ulcer of the stomach. During the Session a discussion will take place on the diseases of the lymphatic system; leukæmia and lymphadenoma will be specially considered. The first discussion will take place in March.

INCOMPATIBILITIES OF STRYCHNIA.—Bromides, iodides and chlorides of sodium or potassium produce a decided precipitation in solutions of strychnia. Dr. A. B. Lyons reports in the Detroit *Medical Journal* a case where serious poisoning was caused by the last dose of the following:—

℞ Strychnia ..... gr. ii.
Bromide of potassium .... ʒii.
Syrup, water .....aa ʒiv.
M.

THE MEDICO-LEGAL INVESTIGATION OF SPERMATOZAO.—"Certain vegetable fibrillæ, particularly those of hemp, contain in their interior, certain ovoid granulations, slightly flattened in their longest diameter, and very refractive, which precisely resemble, in dimensions, aspect and form, the so-called head of the anamalcule. These granules become free as soon as the cellules are destroyed, and are dispersed in the liquid where the debris of the material is floating."

Longuet accordingly has searched for a colouring matter which by its elective action would permit one to distinguish between the animalculæ and the vegetable detritus; and, after numerous essays, he succeeded with ammoniacal carmine, such as the histologists use. The spermatozooids behave differently in the presence of the carmine, according as they are fresh, or old and dry. When recent they are very slightly changed; when old, they fix the colour with great intensity, more particularly in the large extremity, the so-called "tail" remaining uncoloured. This singular property suffices for their immediate recognition, even when they are surrounded by foreign elements which affect analogous forms.

The author advises as follows:

1. Take a small square of the material, supposed to be stained with semen, cut as nearly as possible from the centre of the stain.

2. Plunge the little square of material into a small quantity of distilled water, coloured by a fewdrops of an ammoniacal solution of carmine (5 or 6 drops to 5 grammes of water).

3. Leave this to macerate for 36 or 48 hours, and even more, for no inconvenience will result.

4. Separate the threads of the material very carefully, thread by thread and fibre by fibre.

5. Isolate each separate fibre.

6. Examine each separately by the microscope, with an enlargement of 500 diameters, each morsel being placed in a drop of ordinary glycerine.

In a preparation thus made, clusters of spermatozooids will be seen for the most part entire, "the head" coloured a light red, "the tail," without tint, disseminated among non-coloured vegetable fibrillæ of perfect refraction.

The advantage of this method lies in the fact that the results are most decisive according as the stain is old—that is, under the most unfavourable circumstances, for nothing is more easy than the isolation and recognition of spermatozooids in recent stains.—*Chicago Med. and Surg. Journal.*