PERISCOPIC DEPARTMENT.

Medicine.

POISONING BY PHARAOH'S SERPENTS.

By WILLIAM S. ROWEN, Act. Assist. Surgeon U.S.N.

Observing your excellent article in the last number of the JOURNAL, on the injurious effects which may result from the inhalation of poisonous gases set free by combustion of " sulpho-cyanide of mercury," in the form of the new toy, the " eggs of Pharoah's serpents," I beg leave to give the particulars of a case that came under my observation a short time since in Washington, D. C. The " eggs" being, as you say, one of the fashionable sensations of the day, are introduced into the drawing rooms and nurseries of many of our citizens, who are in a measure ignorant of their true character, and who may realize the fact only when serious mischief has been done.

A gentleman of my acquaintance, who has been troubled with a slight bronchial affection for several months, ignited one of the " eggs " in a close room ; and while watching the singular appearance of the mellone slowly exuding from the apex of the cone, was seized with vertigo and asphyxia, and, losing consciousness, fell to the floor, the flame from the burning " egg " igniting a portion of his clothing. He recovered in a moment, but suffered with an aggravation of his bronchitis for several days, accompanied with severe hemicrania.

I have heard of another case similar to the above, in which a child was partially suffocated by the obnoxious gases.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

THERAPEUTICAL FRAGMENTS.

By THEODORE C. MILLER, M.D., Athens, East Tennessee.

VALERIANATE OF ZINC IN SLEEPLESSNESS.—In some form of fevers, the typhoid pneumonia, etc., where opium or morphine increased the difficulty, I succeeded admirably, by giving 2 grs. of val. zinc 4 times daily.

DYSENTERY.—In one epidemic where the disease showed more of a gastric nature, the following removed the whole disease in a few days :

℞ Epsom salts, ℥ j. Camphor water, fl ℥ viij. Muriatic acid, fl ℨ j. Fluid ext. ipecac, ℈ j.

M. S.—A tablespoonful every 2 hours.