

Medical Items.

—The ashes of Prof. S. D. Gross weighed about seven pounds. They were enclosed in a marble urn about three feet high, unornamented and without inscription, and placed beside the coffin of his late wife in the family vault at Woodland Cemetery.

MATERNAL FOUNTS.—There is living in Montijo a woman with four mammary glands; two are situated in their ordinary place, and the other two, a little smaller, perpendicularly and two centimetres above, one on each side, with their corresponding nipple. She is at present nursing a child with the four breasts, all having an abundance of milk. (*Il Siglo.*)

ANTISEPTIC ABSORBENT SPONGE.—Mr. Sampson Gamgee showed before the Medical Society of London, April 21st, an artificial antiseptic sponge of his invention. A small capsule, containing eucalyptus or other antiseptic, was enclosed in absorbent cotton; outside of this was a layer of cocoanut fibre, and outside of this more absorbent cotton-wool; the whole being enclosed in gauze. When about to be used the capsule could be broken by a blow of the fist, and the absorbent cotton became permeated with the antiseptic. He said these sponges could be made at a very trifling cost, and hoped they would come into use as a cheap substitute for ordinary sponges; they possessed this great advantage, that when required for use they were certain—however long they might have been kept—to be antiseptic: and, being so cheap, they might always be destroyed after being used.

VASELINE.—Amongst all the new preparations of petroleum, vaseline, the original form of petroleum jelly, still holds its own. Its perfectly stable qualities, its resistance to all putrefactive changes, renders it pre-eminently suitable for use as the basis of numerous ointments. Its soft and emollient nature at the same time indicates it as the most appropriate agent for all soothing applications requisite for tender surfaces, such as the nares, the eyes, &c. Much as the standard is used, it deserves, from its many good qualities, still more extensive employment.