

New Instruments.

DR. RYERSON'S IMPROVED NASAL DOUCHE.—
The advantages claimed for the improved douche are as follows :



1. It can be used for douching the nasal passages both from the posterior and anterior openings. The latter is used by detaching the injector from the hard rubber post-nasal piece.

2. When the douche is once in place posteriorly it is not necessary to remove it until the amount of fluid necessary has been used. With the ordinary post-nasal douches the instrument must be re-introduced for each bulbful.

3. Owing to the upward curve of the external portion of the post-nasal tube, the hands are removed out of the way of the returning fluid. Most douches curve downward and the fluid frequently runs up the sleeve.

4. Being made of English black rubber, of good quality, it lasts well, as it is not so easily destroyed by solutions as is white rubber.

Made at Dr. Ryerson's suggestion by Stevens & Son, London and Toronto. The douches have been in use for 18 months and have answered the requirements exceedingly well.

Books and Pamphlets.

INSANITY CONSIDERED IN ITS MEDICO-LEGAL RELATIONS, by J. R. Buckham, A.M., M.D., Flint, Mich. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. London, 16 Southampton-st., Strand, pp. 250.

The object the author had before him in preparing this most excellent work was to draw attention to the uncertainty of verdicts in insanity trials, and the more prominent causes of that uncertainty. The author points out the absurdity of many of

the decisions of the courts of law, and shows that the rulings have been as various as the forms of insanity itself. He treats of expert testimony in a way which is not only just and impartial, but also rational and comprehensive. Experts in insanity, he very properly maintains, are those only who have devoted a life-time to the study and investigation of this subject, and that physicians in general have no claim whatever to be considered experts. In this position we believe the author is perfectly correct, and fully justified in his proposition that the giving of expert testimony in insanity cases should either be put upon some rational basis, or entirely abandoned. He recommends that only skilled men should be appointed as superintendents of asylums, and only those so qualified, who have been in the active discharge of the duties of such positions, for a period of at least — years, shall be eligible to testify as experts in insanity in any court. They shall give testimony when required as a part of their duty, without remuneration as witnesses. The expert should be considered as *amicus curiæ*, and as such, should be subpoenaed not on behalf of "the defence" or "the prosecution", but on behalf of the court. The author also justly attaches great importance to the opportunity of observing the supposed lunatic for a sufficient length of time, and particularly when the subject considers himself free from observation. The above plan, under certain modifications, which experience would suggest, seems to us to afford the ground-work of a most necessary medico-legal reform. We heartily commend the work to the attention of our readers.

THE TREATMENT OF WOUNDS. By Louis S. Pilcher, A.M., M.D., Member of the New York Surgical Society. New York: Wm. Wood & Co. 1883.

This work of 378 pages deals in a very practical way with the treatment of wounds. The first two chapters treat of wounds in general, repair, etc. Chapter III. treats of "The Relations of Micro-organisms to Wound Disturbances." Chapter IV., "Asepsis and Antiseptics—Wound Cleanliness." Chapter V., "Wound Disinfection—Antiseptics," etc., etc. As a germicide the author gives special prominence to corrosive sublimate, and states that a solution of the strength of one to 500 is a harmless dressing for wounds. With regard to abdominal wounds involving the viscera, he states that "the duty of the surgeon is *clearly* to enlarge the opening in the abdominal wall, or to make a new one in a more favorable location, sufficiently to admit of examination of the viscera in the track of the wound, to detect and ligate bleeding vessels,