

graduation in the large tin when the smaller is raised completely out of it.

Lastly, affix two or three feet of flexible tubing and a mouth piece to the top of the small tin, and the spirometer will be ready for use.

The graduation inside of the larger vessel is to detect and obviate any difference in the level of the water within and outside of the rising vessel, which after receiving the breath should be depressed until the water is at its proper level, the tube being closed by the fingers during the adjustment and reading off.

With this scale as a guide the York Glass Company of England has made me a beautiful spirometer of this form entirely of glass, and correctly graduated into cubic inches. It differs somewhat from this one in having a perforated glass stopper in the centre to which the silk covered tubing is attached; and also in having two cords, one each side of the stopper, and four pulleys which prevent it from turning. Thus arranged and mounted on handsome brackets, apart from its usefulness in ascertaining the presence and progress of phthisis, it forms an elegant addition to a surgery.

LYMPH FROM THE COW.—Dr. T. S. Fletcher of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, in a letter to the *London Lancet*, states that for the last five-and-twenty years he has been in the habit of keeping up his vaccine by inoculating cows with human vaccine which he inserts into the teat where it joins the udder; he says that a brown scab becomes formed in from four to seven days, which on puncturing, yields an abundant supply of colourless or light straw coloured lymph.

QUININE IN INDIA.—The experimental cultivation of cinchona plants in India has been a complete success. Specimens of bark grown in India have been received in England, and are now undergoing analysis by Mr. Howard, the eminent quinine manufacturer, who has already obtained beautiful quinine from bark of but two years growth, besides cinchonine and cinchonidine. Meanwhile the plants are multiplying rapidly; five government plantations are established in the Neilgherry Hills, a mountain range in the presidency of Madras, and natives as well as Europeans are undertaking the cultivation in all parts of the hill districts of India.

—*London Medical Times*.

POISONING BY CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.—Every student in medicine is aware that when a solution of corrosive sublimate is placed upon a bright piece of gold and touched with an iron point, it undergoes decomposition, a thin film of metallic mercury being deposited on the surface of the precious metal. Dr. J. C. Johnston of Baltimore, by the practical application of this fact, has succeeded in saving the life of a gentleman in that city that had swallowed two scruples of the bichloride of mercury. In less than half an hour afterwards he had given his patient a bolus composed of half a book of gold leaf, having previously sprinkled a drachm of iron by hydrogen between its leaves, this dose was retained but a short time, when it was repeated with the happiest results, the vomiting and distress ceased and the man recovered rapidly under the ordinary treatment for gastritis. Dr. Johnston thinks if the gold leaf had been rubbed in a mortar with bright iron filings and the mixture given with water, that it would have been more speedily successful than the plan he adopted in his hurry.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, May 7, 1863.

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The recent order for the suppression of the use of calomel and tartar emetic in the United States army, has justly excited the indignation of the profession in that country, not from the desire of upholding the employment of any particular remedies, but from the imputation of incompetency, inferred by it of their medical brethren in the service, than many of whom there scarcely exists more highly educated men in the world. At a large and influential meeting of physicians recently held on this subject at Cincinnati, Ohio, a number of army surgeons who had occupied the exalted positions of medical directors and inspectors general of whole divisions, from different parts of the seat of war, bore testimony to the extreme rareness of any of the bad effects attributed to these agents. This with the experience of numerous physicians attending large military hospitals in Louisville, Cincinnati, and other places, sustains the correctness of the resolution adopted by the meeting, that the statement put forth by the surgeon general was untrue, and not sustained by the army and sanitary inspectors, and that the cause of the order was but a mere private opinion concerning the injuriousness of the preparations of mercury and antimony which the surgeon general had constantly held and openly avowed upwards of three years ago, when but an assistant surgeon on duty in Michigan. Had the resolutions been less harsh, and concluded with a request for the rescinding of the obnoxious order, in lieu of a recommendation for the removal of its author from a position in which he is evidently so ably fulfilling his duties, they would have met with universal approval, and probably have produced a proper response from surgeon general Hammond, who doubtless in carrying out a favourite idea, did not reflect upon the light it was placing the medical profession in the eyes of his country and the world, a profession too, whose honour and interest he has so much at heart and which he is so arduously endeavouring to promote in many ways, and none more successfully than in his thoughtfulness for the future, as exemplified in the formation of an extensive army surgical museum which already numbers over a thousand specimens, and in the preparation of a medical and surgical history of the rebellion, works which will redound to the credit of the nation as long as time shall last.

Commencing the *Lancet* with the determination if possible, of sending a few numbers to every medical man, whose address we could obtain, our circulation has necessarily been rapidly on the increase;