

raising and lowering these screws the size of this space can be varied, and the amount of plaster left in the bandage as it is rolled up can thus be increased or diminished at will.

The end of the bandage material, of suitable width, is placed underneath the scraper, a heap of plaster is then deposited upon it, and both hands are left free to roll up the bandage, which is automatically filled with just a sufficient amount of plaster. By means of this apparatus plaster bandages can be made with very great rapidity, a dozen or more only requiring a few moments for their manufacture.

It has been suggested to me that an attachment something like that with which the ordinary roller bandages are made might be added to the machine described above, so that by means of a crank the bandage could be wound up. As I am well satisfied with the efficiency of the apparatus in the absence of this modification, and also feel reasonably sure that such an addition would only complicate an otherwise simple machine, I am indisposed to experiment with it any further.

The plaster-of-paris bandages supplied for the use of surgeons,



Fig. 2.

even in many of the hospitals, may well be unfavorably criticised by those who are in the habit of using the best in this line that can be produced.

The defects in them arise from several sources. Very frequently the quality of the plaster used is very inferior, with the result that it sets very slowly. This may be due to the fact that it was of poor quality when first purchased, or that it has been left exposed to the air in a damp place. The best kind of plaster for general use is what is known as dental plaster, and can be purchased from establishments for the supply of dental materials, or from large dealers, of reliable quality and at a reasonable price. When bought in the original barrel and kept in a dry room it seems to remain unchanged for many months.

The fabric used in manufacturing the bandages is hardly less important than the quality of plaster employed. The fault usually present in regard to this part of the bandage is that there is too much substance to it; it is not sufficiently light and open-meshed or it is too closely woven. After trying a number of materials, the very best that I have yet employed is what is known as book-