

## REVIEWS.

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MATERIA MEDICA, THERAPEUTICS, MEDICAL PHARMACY, PRESCRIPTION-WRITING, AND MEDICAL LATIN. By WILLIAM SCHLEIF, Ph.G., M.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co.

THE author has succeeded in condensing an astonishing amount of information in the comparatively small compass of this book. It is for the student's benefit, no doubt, that many remedies now of purely historical interest have been retained. We note the statement that *veratrum viride* is given in the early stages of pneumonia, a myth that has been taught and will, we doubt not, continue to be taught to generations of confiding students; yet who ever heard of its being actually used in practice? But if the author may be criticised for excessive conservatism in this respect, he has at least omitted none of the important newer remedies, and, except for the very newest, which are found in a special list and are briefly and impartially mentioned with little or no critical comment, have been, with excellent judgment, included in the same group with the old-established drugs. It is to be regretted that the group of coal-tar antipyretics has been accorded such favorable notice. Antipyrin, it is true, is encumbered with a caution as to the possibility of medicinal doses causing "serious depression;" nevertheless, it is distinctly recommended in typhoid and pneumonia "whenever it is evident that the elevation of temperature of itself is harming the patient." Not to dwell on the difficulty of determining when this indication is present, it is now generally held, and ought to be as generally taught, that these drugs have no place in the treatment of continued fevers, especially typhoid, as there are equally effectual means of combating fever that are free from the depressing qualities of coal-tar derivatives. The antitoxins, except that of diphtheria, are dismissed with only a casual mention. The value of diphtheria antitoxin is, of course, distinctly recognized, and accurate dosage, according to age, is given. This, as well as the treatment of animal gland extracts, of which thyroid extract and the suprarenal gland preparations are favorably mentioned, represents the present status of the question of serum and animal therapy, and is in accord with general clinical experience.

In the portion of the book devoted to prescription-writing, the claims of the metric system to be admitted to general practice are fully recognized, and we cordially join with the author in the hope that the adoption of the system by the Pharmacopœia may lead to its adoption by the profession generally. As long as we continue to think in the old system, some method of transposition will be indispensable, and the one suggested by the author is as convenient as any. In writing ordinary prescriptions, which do not demand absolute accuracy of dosage, it will save time and trouble to bear in mind that the number of teaspoonful doses

in a 2-ounce mixture is equal to the number of grains—approximately 16—in a gramme; it is, therefore, only necessary to write opposite the name of the ingredient the number representing the desired dose in grains or minims, since it will represent the number of grammes or cubic centimetres required for the whole mixture. If the mixture is to be three ounces—100 cubic centimetres—the numbers are multiplied by  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; if the dose is to be two teaspoonfuls, the numbers are divided by 2, etc., according to the amount of the mixture and of the dose desired. For drugs that are prescribed in fractional doses, the equation 1 grain equals 0.06 gramme must be carried in the mind.

The short abstract of dietetics, which should properly be regarded as an integral part of therapeutics, is a valuable addition to the book. A table of doses, a list of the important poisons and their antidotes, with other tabular matter, and two complete indices, one "general" and one "therapeutical," complete the volume, which, as regards arrangement, type, and other details relating to book-making, is a good example of the up-to-date text-book.

R. M. G.

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A COMPEND OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. By ALBERT P. BRUBAKER, M.D.  
Eleventh edition. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

ANOTHER edition, the eleventh, bears witness to the popularity of this quiz-compend of physiology, which is too well known to the student world to require a formal introduction. It is not compiled on the question and answer plan, and therefore discourages the objectionable plan of learning by heart, which is the immediate result of using many of the so-called aids to students. The book is cordially recommended to students for whom it is intended, and it will no doubt be consulted by older men as well in looking up a question of physiology after the store of college information has grown rusty. The text is diversified with some excellent illustrations and numerous tables. The index is not much more than nominal, and were it not for the excellent arrangement of the subject-matter and the abundance of headings that catch the eye one might be disposed to grumble at the author's parsimony in that respect.

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A TEXT-BOOK OF SURGICAL PRINCIPLES AND SURGICAL DISEASES OF THE FACE, MOUTH, AND JAWS, FOR DENTAL STUDENTS. By H. HORACE GRANT, A.M., M.D., Professor of Surgery and of Clinical Surgery in Hospital College of Medicine; Professor of Oral Surgery in the Louisville College of Dentistry, etc. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders & Co., 1902.

It is of prime importance that a dentist should understand something of the principles underlying general surgical practice and that he be able to properly interpret the initial symptoms of certain conditions which may first come to his notice. We refer to such diseases as chancre, cancer of the tongue, cancrum oris, fibroid growths of the jaws, etc.