BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF
M. E. CAMERON

A REFERENCE HAND-BOOK FOR NURSES. By Amanda K. Beck, graduate of the Illinois Training-School for Nurses. 32mo, 150 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. Bound in flexible morocco, \$1.50 net.

Miss Beck's little book will find many friends, no doubt, if only for the neat and stylish appearance it presents, but we doubt whether the increase of such books is desirable. The notes of a probationer, however valuable to herself during probation, should not command much attention once the probationary stage is past. Some of the notes, too, seem of doubtful origin. Was there ever a nurse in training called upon to make and apply the onion poultice of page 47? What dreams of a beefsteak dinner the patient would have! There is implied the notion that nurses in the West are not confined by the limits of their own profession, as they are in New York. For instance, page 41, "Miscellaneous Formulæ," begins with a certain "Semmola's Mixture" "*to eliminate the kidneys.*" Nurses have been severely censured in New York for so much as dressing an old ulcer of the leg without direction and prescription, and this is a small matter when compared with interference with so important a function as that of the kidneys.

There is room for more books than we have on nursing subjects written by nurses, but it seems a waste of good ability and of time and money to increase the reproduction of these sketchy little memory helps, which take up a multitude of subjects and lay them down like labelled parcels of which we see only the outside.

A HAND-BOOK OF NURSING. Published under the direction of the Connecticut Training-School for Nurses connected with the General Hospital Society, New Haven, Conn. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

The revision of the New Haven Hand-Book of Nursing after twenty-seven years must be regarded as a questionable enterprise, and one that violates the Biblical injunction against mending old garments with new cloth and putting new wine into old bottles. Not that there is enough of the new wine to be very dangerous; there is hardly as much new in the