

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## The International Scientific Language.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23, 1895.

To the Editor:—I was very much pleased with your article in the last number of the JOURNAL on "The International Scientific Language," and I think that in the main I agree with you. But I feel sure that you did not lay sufficient stress upon the unfortunate fact that the ability to speak French is quite a different thing from the translating knowledge. The former is rarely acquired after a certain age and almost never outside of a French school or a French-speaking locality. For instance, the only French that I heard spoken by Americans at the Pan-American Medical Congress—with one or two notable exceptions—was of that variety which Chaucer designated as of "Stratford-atte-Bow," and it was excessively painful to listen to. When the time comes that a man will commence to prepare himself for the study and practice of medicine at 12 years of age,—as you know is often done abroad—the acquisition of conversational French will form part of his preliminary education, but as things now are, the ability to *translate* technical articles is about as much as one medical man out of a hundred will be likely to acquire.

But this is not what I set out to speak about. I should feel obliged if you could tell me where I can procure Kostomoiro's Greek work, "On Ophthalmology and Otology of the Ancient Greeks." I have not much intention of translating it, but I wish it for reference and for my library.

Very sincerely yours, CASEY A. WOOD, M.D.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 30, 1895.

To the Editor:—I read with much interest your address on "The International Scientific Language," and heartily indorse what you said. Especially am I in accord with your ideas of the practicability of French as against the sentimentality associated with the Greek language. I sincerely hope that you will continue to use your influence to have French indorsed as the international language. Very truly yours,

WILLIAM E. WIRT, M.D.

## A Typographic Error.

MUSCATINE, IOWA, Dec. 24, 1895.

To the Editor:—As I was reading an article in the issue of December 21, p. 1090 of the JOURNAL, I came across this word, "tribaism," in second column, line 41. I could not find its meaning from any books at my command nor from any of my "Roman friends."

I am yours fraternally,

ELLIOTT R. KING, M.D.

ANSWER: The word was misprinted by the omission of the letter "d." It should have been printed *tribadism*.

## BOOK NOTICES.

**Injuries and Diseases of the Genital and Urinary Organs.** By HENRY MORRIS, M.A., M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. 8vo, cl. pp. 478, with ninety-seven illustrations. New York: William Wood & Co. 1895.

This is an excellent monograph, quite up to date, with many special illustrations. The diseases and injuries of the scrotum, testicles, vesiculæ seminales, penis, urethra, prostate and bladder are treated of in the book. The author's advice, based as it is on large experience, is sound and trustworthy. In the matter of style, there is some ground for criticism, but as its teaching is in accord with modern views on the subject, little need be said. The book like many others, might be easily pruned, so that a loss of 5 per cent. of its superfluous words, would add to its clearness. These are usually Britishisms. "The poor fellow described them as being like to round clear

bladders or berries," p. 264, "And was thereby able to suture the cut edges of the floor *together*, around a No. 8 catheter." p. 265. "The pus burrowed *up* through the pelvis, etc.," p. 265. "The average time from *start to finish* is from three to nine months," p. 323. "One feels that the rectum is close *up* to the posterior surface, etc.," p. 333. "Nothing but a layer of cellular tissue, and *not always that* separates," p. 333. "If these means afford positive signs, *well and good*, but if not, we must not exclude," p. 440. Barring this peculiarity, the book is to be commended for its practical value, and its sound common sense.

**An American Text-book of Surgery, for Practitioners and Students by various authors.** Edited by WILLIAM W. KEEN, M.D., LL.D., and J. WILLIAM WHITE, M.D., PH.D. Second edition, carefully revised. Royal octavo, cl. pp. 1248. Philadelphia: 1895. W. B. SAUNDERS. For sale by subscription. Price \$7.00.

Seven professors of surgery; two hospital surgeons, and one professor of ophthalmology have modestly consented to anonymously assist the responsible editors in the production of this well-known and deservedly popular text-book.

The chief criticism directed against the first edition, was that it was unequal in the relative importance given the various topics, that certain unusual operations were enlarged upon by essayists to the exclusion of other more common topics of everyday interest to the young practitioner. This criticism has been met in this edition by many additions that will materially increase the value of the book. The alterations have made only slight increase in the number of pages. Additions to surgical knowledge follow one another with such rapidity that while the pages of a text-book are still fresh from the press, omissions begin to be noticed. The additions in present volume include a section on acromegaly, a chapter on symphyseotomy, statements concerning the effect of modern small arms in military surgery, the Murphy button, the Hartley-Krause method of Gasserian ganglion removal, Schede's operation of rib resection, and many minor changes. That the book has improved there is no question, and we have no doubt the third edition will be called for in about the same time that has elapsed since the appearance of the first.

**A Manual of the Practice of Medicine.** By GEORGE ROE LOCKWOOD, M.D. Illustrated. 8vo, cl. pp. 935. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1896. Price, \$2.50.

The author says that it has been his aim "to present in this manual the essential facts and principles of the practice of medicine in a concise and available form."

It must be conceded that he has fairly succeeded, but in our judgment much condensation can still be done with advantage. A sample of unnecessary verbiage may be seen on p. 263 where the author says: "By such exercise the really weak heart *goes to pieces*, while the healthy neurotic heart *clears up*."

It would be extremely interesting to have the author inform us of the exact pathologic change which occurs in the heart when it "goes to pieces," by any kind of exercise, or when being "neurotic" it "clears up."

Many a good book is spoiled because its author is careless in the use of words. In these days when there are so many excellent works on nearly every conceivable subject, every superfluous word inflicts unnecessary toil upon the reader. The old system of dosage is used.

## NEW INSTRUMENTS.

NASO-PHARYNGEAL BLADES AND UNIVERSAL HANDLES.

BY J. E. SCHADLE, M.D.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

This instrument has many advantages other than its "*e pluribus unum*" construction, which is, perhaps, the first thing that appeals to one upon inspecting it. By means of the ball