

BOOK NOTICES.

A Homœopathic Text-book of Surgery. Edited by Charles E. Fisher, M. D., Chicago, and T. L. MacDonald, M. D., Washington. Medical Century Co. Sheep, \$9.00. Half-morocco, \$10.00. Boericke & Tafel. Philadelphia. 1896.

With the advent of the New Year comes the new *Homœopathic Text-book of Surgery*, a volume of 1661 pages. At about the same time comes the second edition of its big rival, *The American Text-book of Surgery*, a volume of 1248 pages. A careful comparison of the two volumes will assure any one that Dr. Fisher and his fellow workers will not be called upon to take a back seat by impartial men when they compare their work with that to be found in the leading work on surgery of the other big division of the medical world. It requires but a glance at the *Homœopathic Text-book* by anyone who knows anything about the publishing of books to show what a great work the editor, Dr. Fisher, has done and how ably he has done it. Taking the authors alphabetically we find the following surgeons' names as contributors to this great book; to the names we append the subject on which they write:

Chas. Adams, Gun-shot Surgery; Curtis Beebe, Minor Surgery; W. H. Bishop, Fractures and Dislocations; H. R. Chislet, Surgical Bacteriology and Surgery of the Joints; N. W. Emerson, Modern Surgical Technique; C. E. Fisher, Surgical Diseases, Burns and Scalds; W. E. Green, Surgery of the Digestive System; W. Tod Helmuth, Tumors; John E. James, Amputation; Wm. R. King, Surgery of the Ear; Geo. F. Laidlaw, Laboratory Technique; J. M. Lee, Surgery of the Peritoneum, Liver and Pancreas, Surgery of the Uterus; S. L. MacDonald, Surgical Anesthesia, Surgical Shock, Asepsis and Antisepsis, Surgery of the Spine, Cord and Nerves, Surgery of the Kidneys and Ureters, Surgery of the Tubes and Ovaries; W. B. Morgan, Surgery of the Vascular System, Surgery of the Glandular System, Surgery of the Male Genito-urinary Organs; Geo. H. Palmer, Wounds; S. B. Parsons, Plastic Surgery; E. H. Pratt, Surgery of the Lower Orifices of the Body; G. W. Roberts, Syphilis; J. Kent Sanders, Surgery of the Respiratory System; Geo. F. Shears, Hernia and Surgery of the Breast; W. B. Van Lennep, Surgical Diseases and Injuries of the Head;

Chas. E. Walton, Ligation of the Arteries; DeWitt G. Wilcox, Surgery of the Osseous System; Sydney F. Wilcox, Orthopedic Surgery; Harold Wilson, Surgery of the Eye.

There is one feature about the new surgery that will meet with unqualified approval of the Homœopathic medical profession and that is, almost without exception, Homœopathic therapeutics are given merited prominence. Writing of the routine treatment of syphilis with mercury and the iodides by so many men of both schools, Dr. Roberts says: "Syphilis presents as many variations in its course as any disease, and it must be a strange coincidence indeed that pneumonia, for instance, may demand almost any drug in the materia medica, while syphilis is to their minds met by two drugs."

Taken as a whole, we think the book will meet with the approval of all Homœopathic physicians and also find a not unconsiderable sale among the old school men. It is very profusely illustrated in all that pertains to the surgeon's art.

An American Text-book of Surgery, for Practitioners and Students. Edited by Wm. W. Keen, M. D., L.L., D. and J. William White, M. D., Ph. D. Second edition, carefully revised. 1248 pages. Cloth, \$7.00. Sheep, \$8.00. Half morocco, \$9.00. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1896. *For sale by subscription only.*

It is three years since the first edition of this excellent volume appeared, and its success has been very gratifying to both editors and publishers, who have striven to bring the work in its second edition up to date and thus merit a continuance of their past success.

The work is the joint production of the following surgeons: Chas. S. Burnett, Phineas S. Connor, Fred. S. Dennis, Wm. W. Keen, Chas. B. Nancrede, Roswell Park, Lewis S. Pilcher, N. Seen, F. J. Sheppard, Lewis A. Stimson, Wm. Thompson, Collins Warren and J. William White.

It is divided into four "books" (all in one volume, of course). On General Surgery, with nineteen chapters; Special Surgery, with ten chapters; Regional Surgery, with eleven chapters, and Operative Surgery, with seven chapters, the whole concluding with a very complete index. The paper, press-work and illustrations are up to Mr. Saunders, usual high order of excellence.

The American Year Book of Medicine and Surgery: Being a yearly digest of scientific progress and authoritative opinion in all branches of medicine and surgery, drawn from journals, monographs and text-books of the leading American and foreign authors and investigations. Edited by Geo. M. Gould, M. D. Profusely illustrated with numerous wood-cuts in text and thirty-three handsome half-tone and colored plates. 1183 pages, large octavo. Cloth, \$6.50. Half morocco, \$7.50. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1896.

For sale by subscription only.

Those who have been used to the rather cheap and flimsy "years books" of the past will be astonished when they see this really noble and handsome volume, that in get up and care in editing is fully the peer of the best medical works of the day. It is not often that a Homœopath can commend Dr. Gould's work, but an exception can be made here—he has done his work thoroughly and well. While this is true of the editor's, and his corp of assistants', work, it does not follow that the material gathered is all good, or, indeed, any considerable part of it, for it is simply a masterly condensation of the experiments and opinion and experience of our "regular" brethren. One of them for example concludes that "*Cactus grandiflorus* cannot be included in the list of cardiac drugs," which to one familiar with the great therapeutic law is rather an amusing conclusion.

Of *Apocynum cannabinum*, the editor remarks, in brackets, that its usefulness scarcely seems to have been sufficiently appreciated, which is very true. Outside of the laboratory products *Materia Medica* receives but scanty attention.

Color-Vision and Color-Blindness. A practical manual for railroad surgeons. By J. Ellis Jennings, M. D. (Univ. Penna.). Illustrated with one colored full-page plate and twenty-one photo-engravings. Crown octavo, 110 pages. Cloth, \$1.00 net. Philadelphia: The F. A. Davis Co.

This seems to be a very useful manual for railroad surgeons, or for any one else who is interested in the curious study of color-blindness. It has for a frontispiece a colored plate explanatory of Holmgren tests for color-blindness.

READERS of that recently published, and very interesting book, *Gout and its Cure*, will remember that the author speaks of the

peculiarly beneficial action of *Spiritus glandium quercus* on men who have the tipling habit. The reason the author of *Gout* first prescribed the remedy for this condition was that an old writer mentions the fact that it causes men to feel as they do after a drinking bout. We were recently shown an order from a Chicago physician for a second supply of the remedy, and to it he appended a line reading: "The remedy is doing wonders for this man." The remedy will not make a sane man of every sot, but prescribed on the lines laid down in *Gout* it seems capable of doing good in the cases of drinkers without sufficient will power to control their appetite.

ATTENTION is directed to the announcement, to be found on RECORDER's advertising page XIX, opposite personals, of Publishers Boericke & Tafel concerning the new translation and edition of Hahnemann's crowning work, the *Chronic Diseases*. The desire is to give all an opportunity to get the work at subscription price, *i. e.*, \$8.00 net, delivered free of express charges to any part of the United States. Owing to the greatly enhanced size and cost of the book over original estimates, the price will be materially advanced after its publication, when no more subscriptions will be received, and it will then be sold at the advanced price only. The translation, as has been stated before, is new from cover to cover, and is the work of Professor of Languages the Rev. L. H. Tafel, and it is a strictly accurate, and, as far as possible, literal, translation of Hahnemann's great work. Dr. Pemberton Dudley, President of the American Institute of Homœopathy, has kindly given the work his attention as general editor, and Dr. Richard Hughes has supplied the notes as he did for Dr. Dudgeon's translation of the *Materia Medica Pura*. The work will run over sixteen hundred pages and, at the price, is one of the cheapest medical works of the day, as it is the most important. There was but one translation of this great work ever before made, and that was by Hempel in 1845, and it has been out of print for many years. It was a very faulty one, and in the present translation the English speaking world really has its first opportunity of studying the greatly misunderstood *Chronic Diseases* as it was written. There is an idea, prevalent to a certain extent, that Hahnemann attributed the origin of chronic diseases to suppressed itch; that he did not know of the existence of the acarus, and, consequently his whole theory has been disproved by modern medical science.

Those who have studied the matter know how utterly erroneous this idea is, and that so far from its being the case the clearest sighted modern scientists are slowly but surely coming around to the propositions Hahnemann advances in this book.

A PROFESSIONAL man may thoroughly know his profession yet few, perhaps none, can carry all its details in his head; he must, ever and anon, refer to his text-books to refresh his memory, even as writers must be constantly referring to the dictionary for the proper spelling of words. The writers now have their convenient little "spellers" containing the correct spelling of words and nothing more. What these handy little books are to writers, Dr. Marvin A. Custis, *Practice of Medicine* will be to physicians. Everyone who has examined the advance sheets unites in saying that to the majority it will be "just what I have been looking for." It will be a small, compact book, bound in flexible leather, with gilt edges, that can easily be carried in the pocket, yet which will cover the entire field of "practice," with most excellent condensed therapeutics thrown in. We understand that the book is now about ready for the binder. The price will be somewhere about \$2.00, but this point is not yet decided by the publishers.

THE third edition of Raue's *Special Pathology and Diagnostics with Therapeutic Hints* was published in 1885 and has been out of print for nearly a year. The fourth edition is now running through the press, about 800 pages being completed. The book has been thoroughly revised, some parts re-written and much new matter added, among which is a new and valuable section on mental diseases. It is needless to say here that this book stands out pre-eminently as the standard work on what may be termed *pure* Homœopathic practice. This was expressed by the *Medical Advance* years ago when it said: "We are willing that it should stand as a representative of our Homœopathic practice." No expense has been spared by the publishers to make the new edition in all respects fully merit its representative character.

MENTION was made in these pages last month of a new work by Hahnemann, *The Defence of the Organon*, which has never before been published. The manuscript from the translator, Dr. Dudgeon, has been received, and we understand that the work

will be put in the compositor's hands as soon as possible. The work was originally published under the name of Hahnemann's son, for reasons explained by Dr. Dudgeon, but is wholly the work of Hahnemann, as every one will easily see when they come to read it. The *Defence* is a magnificent one, and the work to-day is as fresh and as readable as on the day it was published; and will ever remain so for it deals not with transient affairs but with those that are permanent. It will not make a very large book—less than a hundred pages probably.

THE flattering reception from book buyers accorded Burnett's *Gout* seems to show that the aristocratic ill has obtained a considerable footing in the United States. It has also excited considerable interest in that quaint old Remedy of Rademacher's, *Spiritus glandium quercus*, or distilled acorns, or "jagine," as some of the jokers have dubbed it.

ANOTHER, and later work by the author of *Gout*, is *Delicate, Backward, Puny and Stunted Children*. After reading it one could wish that the subjects were treated in a fuller manner. The perusal of what is written will suggest to the practitioner new fields of conquest, fields that have hitherto been deemed impregnable. As said before, the value of the book lies largely in its suggestions. Some readers, no doubt will find fault with it, for many object to new ideas; but there will be others who will not regret the time spent in reading this bit of originality. It is but fair to state by way of warning that in his treatment the author deals largely—chiefly—with proved unremedies, but the results he reports are so striking that no one can deny, without disputing the accuracy of the reported cases, that they are well worthy of further study, the more so as they reach cases not covered by our present *Materia Medica*.

THERE is one point, in fact it is the *raison d'être* of the work, in *A Regional and Comparative Materia Medica*, published a few months ago by its authors, Drs. Malcolm and Moss, that will always make it a favorite with practitioners. The point in question is the fact that under the familiar divisions, eyes, nose, chest, etc., etc., etc., the book gathers the key-notes, characteristic, and leading symptoms of the whole *Materia Medica*. It must certainly at times prove to be a great convenience to thus

have all the characteristics of the Materia Medica bunched in this manner.

DELICATE, BACKWARD, PUNY, AND STUNTED CHILDREN. Dr. Burnett is that "white black-bird"—a physician of originality. Physicians are many who take ideas out of books; those who put ideas into books are so much rarer that one is fain to greet them and their ideas with sincere and enthusiastic gratitude. One may not always agree with Dr. Burnett; one may even look askance at the miracle-working powers of *Psorinum* 30. But these are slight matters weighed against the fact that Dr. Burnett sets one thinking along somewhat unfamiliar lines, and suggests hopeful possibilities of action in directions where one has been wont to remain merely and none too hopefully "expectant." Such an excellent influence is exerted by the present little work. The thesis is that the many children encountered by every physician in family practice who are to be described as "delicate, backward, peculiar, odd, stunted, puny or the like," are probably suffering from some form of arrested development; and that if instead of being merely advised into hygienic surroundings and "left to nature," each is carefully and individually studied, and cautiously and experimentally treated—Dr. Burnett lays much stress here on the properly selected Homœopathic remedy—the pent-up, but rarely weakly and altogether lacking, "developmental power" inherent in the child of arrested growth in any given direction will be liberated, and the child rise to the normal standard. "The power to grow is present all the time," says our author, "but is, so to speak, locked up, much as we may suppose is the case with people's wisdom-teeth, which come at such different ages that it is impossible to say when they are really due." In support of his idea, Dr. Burnett cites a series of remarkable and interesting cases from his own clinical experience, in which stammering, incontinence of urine, intellectual dullness, one-sided growth of teeth, beard and the like, delayed puberty, habitual sullenness, and many like conditions of arrested development have been practically done away with under judicious medical care.—*New England Medical Gazette*.

THE transactions of the American Institute for year of 1895 contains a report of the Committee on Pharmacopœia. The minutes state that one member of the committee, Dr. Sherman, "entered a protest against accepting the report, as there had been

no meeting of the committee for two years and he had not even been invited to attend though he was a member." To this protest Dr. Clapp replied: "There has been no meeting of the full committee for this year because we have not been able to have a quorum. It requires five for a quorum. But certain work had been assigned to its members and this report is based upon the work done by those members who are present. The report was then accepted."

We have sometimes wondered if this new pharmacopœia will repay the labor and time expended on it and the money that must be paid to bring it out. Homœopathy must stand or fall with its Materia Medica, and its Materia Medica is made up of provings of certain mineral, vegetable and animal products, the preparations of which are always given by the provers. Now we cannot consistently change these directions and retain our Materia Medica. These directions are already accurately given in existing pharmacopœias, hence the query.

A FEW YEARS ago Dr. Foulon, editor of that brilliant Homœopathic journal, the *Clinical Reporter*, translated from the French *Alcoholisme et Criminalite*, by Gallavardin, renowned for his "psychic" medicine. The translation is known under the title *The Homœopathic Treatment of Alcoholism*. Every Homœopath knows the peculiar importance rightfully attached to mental symptoms; this is the sphere in which Dr. Gallavardin has worked so successfully for many years, gaining an international reputation and this, his first work ever translated into English, we think merits more attention than it has received. The book is original and is worth the 50 cents it sells for. (By mail, 55 cents.)

P. BLACKISTON, SON & Co., of Philadelphia, announce a book on "Appendicitis," by John B. Deaver, M. D., Assistant Professor of Applied Anatomy, University of Pennsylvania. The book will be arranged in a practical and systematic manner. The History, Etiology, Symptoms, Diagnosis, Operative Treatment, Prognosis and Complications of this disease will be given in the order named. It will contain about forty illustrations of methods of procedure in operating and typical pathological conditions of the Appendix, the latter being printed in colors. There is a big field for such a book.