

best to consult a surgeon either at once or at least within a few weeks; the patient, nevertheless, entreated me supplicatingly to make a trial of the Homœopathic treatment. Repeated disagreeable experiences with surgeons, who always, even without any reasonable cause, asseverated: "If the patient had come earlier, we could have guaranteed the sure success of an operation," caused me to remark to the patient: "I shall do so at your risk."

I gave her the third decimal trituration of *Lapis albus*, 2 decigrams every morning, and the 4th decimal attenuation of *Conium*, 5 drops every noon and evening. On the 9th of January, 1896, she reported to me—*perfectly cured*. The mammary gland, on being examined, proved to be quite soft; not the slightest trace of the hard knot had remained.

Now had this been a cancerous tumor? I answer: No! Cancerous swellings and adenomes in the mamillary glands in consequence of their anatomic construction cannot, when they are reabsorbed and thus become smaller, disappear without a trace in so short a time. It had been manifestly only an encysted extravasation of blood, following a blow on the mamillary gland, which had thus been reabsorbed. Whether this reabsorption was caused by the remedies I ordered, is doubtful; though I do not consider a favorable action of *Conium* in such cases to be impossible. The patient had also rubbed her breast with warm oil and had thus massaged it.

Now what is the morale of this case? We should be careful in our diagnoses as well as in publishing our reports of cures. Yet I may well ask: What a great ado would certain folks have made about this "cure," if a high potency had been used, or one of the patent medicines for cancer of the chest had been employed?

PHLM.

BOOK NOTICES AND GOSSIP.

The Chronic Diseases, Their Peculiar Nature and Their Homœopathic Cure. By Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. Translated from the Second, Enlarged, German Edition of 1835, by Prof. Louis H. Tafel. With annotations by Richard Hughes, M. D. Edited by Pemberton Dudley, M. D. Philadelphia. Boericke & Tafel. 1896.

Such is the full title page of the *Chronic Diseases*, at last out.

The book numbers 1600 pages of the same size as those of *The Materia Medica Pura*, and is of about the same bulk as the recently published *Homœopathic Text-book of Surgery*. The paper, printing and binding are all strictly first class, no one could ask for better.

As for the translation we can say that it seems to be as literal and as faithful as it could be made. That the hypercritical, or anyone disposed to find fault, could pick flaws, or alleged flaws, goes without saying. Men have been translating Homer for centuries, yet each translation is criticised by some one. So it must ever be when rendering one tongue into another. Those, however, who are not looking for faults, but for what Hahnemann wrote, will find it faithfully recorded in this noble volume.

Into Dr. Hughes' notes a number of annoying, but petty errors have crept, owing to the fact that these notes were furnished in manuscript and the writer of them was unable to see the proofs because of living three thousand miles away. These little errors, however, do not occur in Hahnemann's text. They are annoying, but nothing more, and by means of the accompanying *corrigenda* they may be penciled right.

The work in the original German was published in five rather small volumes. In this translation the order of the original has been followed with the exception of placing the prefaces to the fourth and fifth volumes in the first part of the book and placing the remedy *Arsenicum* in its alphabetical order.

No work in homœopathic literature has been more discussed and misunderstood than this, the final contribution of the old medical reformer to the sum of human knowledge. Objections have been made to his theory of the origin of chronic ills and not a little cheap ridicule heaped on it; his symptomatology has been questioned and the assertion made that the most of it was simply the result of trials on the sick, consequently that it was unreliable; that Hahnemann had become visionary and many other ill-founded charges. But consider for a moment that to this book the homœopathic medical profession owes such remedies as *Calcarea carb.*, *Lycopodium*, *Baryta carb.*, *Graphites*, *Sepia*, *Phosphorus*, *Silicea*, and many others almost if not fully as important, and then consider what the practice of medicine would be without them! We do not know how he obtained his knowledge of these remedies, or his symptomatology, for he does not tell us, but all know what they have done for the welfare of humanity and for the wonderful success of Homœopathy, and who, in the

face of this knowledge, can belittle the book that gave them to the world? Or who can question the methods and the ripe wisdom of the man who wrote it? Ought not the fact that Hahnemann, unaided, traced out from quartz such a wonderful remedy as *Silicea*, silence the carpers?

The *Materia Medica Pura* and the *Chronic Diseases* are needed now, and will continue to be needed as long as there are sick folk to treat. Men say, "I have all they contain in my later *Materia Medicas*." Not all; you have at best a more or less good abstract, nothing else. The unabridged *Materia Medica* is to be found alone in these two books (and, of course, in the *Encyclopædia*), and it, above all things, is needed by *students*—by all who go to the original sources instead of resting satisfied with what *Materia Medica* writers chose for them. They are needed to correct our text-books as they appear from generation to generation. They are not books that lapse out of date and are to be replaced by more modern ones, but they are books that should descend from father to son, from one generation of physicians to another—the guide and mentor of all.

The Practice of Medicine, a condensed manual for the busy practitioner. By Marvin A. Custis, M. D., 367 pages. Flexible leather, gilt edges, round corners, \$2.00. By mail, \$2.07. Philadelphia: Boericke & Tafel, 1896.

For many years physicians have felt the need of a condensed work on Practice, not a mere students' manual, but a thoroughly reliable, condensed pocket work on Practice. We believe this book by Dr. Custis will fully satisfy the want. It is not a hasty work, pitch-forked together in a few weeks, but is the result of much careful study and several years spent in preparing it. In general the plan is that followed by the large text-books on Practice. The book opens with the general department "DISEASES OF THE NASAL PASSAGES." Under this heading are gathered:

Acute Coryza.

Chronic Coryza.

Hypertrophic Nasal Catarrh.

Atrophic Nasal Catarrh.

These, with remedies, all gathered into the space of eight pages. Following the foregoing comes "DISEASES OF THE LARYNX," under which are to be found eight sub-headings or dis-

eases, grouped under the general heading. Under each sub-heading are grouped the synonyms, definitions, etiology, pathology, microscopic examinations, symptoms, duration, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment, and also remedies, a condensed therapeutics. Any one can see that the plan of the work is excellent and that the book will be a most valuable pocket companion even to the experienced physician. Students, too, will find it very helpful inasmuch as it gives the accepted *facts* that they *must* know in order to pass an examination at college or before examining boards. It is printed on very fine but thin paper, and although containing 367 pages is of such a size that it may be easily carried in the coat pocket. There is no book in either school that *resembles it*, and it is a safe prediction that it will have a large and permanent sale.

Hahnemann's Defence of the Organon of Rational Medicine and of his previous Homœopathic works against the attacks of Professor Hecker. An explanatory commentary on the Homœopathic system. Translated by R. E. Dudgeon, M. D. 130 pages, 8vo. Cloth, \$1.00. By mail, \$1.07. Philadelphia: Boericke & Tafel. 1896.

This book has never before been translated into any language and, consequently, is practically a new message from Hahnemann. It was published in the year 1810 under the name of Hahnemann's son, Fredrick, then a medical student, for reasons explained by Dr. Dudgeon in his introduction, but that it is the work of the abler father one has to read a few pages only to be thoroughly convinced, even without Dr. Dudgeon's unanswerable documentary evidence. The book is noteworthy as being the only published defence of Homœopathy Hahnemann ever vouchsafed. But is a masterly one and readable. The translator writes, "I have not attempted to smooth the little asperities of diction in this work" and all who enjoy racy reading will thank him for giving it in its original vigor without any toning down.

Aside from all this, the book is exceedingly valuable as a masterly "defence," as useful to-day as ever. Some critics may say that it is more of an "offence" than a "defence" inasmuch as the writer forces the fighting from the start and carries the war right into the citadel of his opponents. But the wise man, when defending himself, puts his enemy *hors du combat* if he can. That is the best defence.

The publishers made special efforts, at the request of the gentlemen who are interested in promoting the Centennial of Homœopathy, to get this work out before the 11th of April, Hahnemann's birthday, and succeeded in placing it on the book counters on the 28th of March.

Sexual Ills and Diseases. A popular manual based on the best Homœopathic practice and the latest text-books. 160 pages. Flexible leather, gilt edges, \$1.00. By mail, \$1.05. Philadelphia: Boericke & Tafel. 1896.

"A good missionary book," remarked a physician who had read this, mechanically, elegant production. The compiler has ignored all lecturing and preaching that are the chief feature in books on these topics, and contented himself with gathering all that is useful and practical in the treatment of the diseases and ill, that originate in that very important, but sadly abused province of the human body, the sexual organs. While written for the public it is not at all unlikely that the practicing physicians will find it a not altogether useless book in the treatment of sexual diseases and ill, in fact it may be found to be superior to some more ambitious works, and much more convenient.

A Text-book Upon the Pathogenetic Bacteria. For Students of Medicine and Physicians. By Joseph McFarlan, M. D., with 113 Illustrations, 359 pages, \$2.50. Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders. 1896.

Whether bacteria are worth so fine a book as this is a question on which there may be a difference of opinion, but there can be none as to the completeness and thoroughness with which Dr. McFarlan and his publisher have done their work. It is complete in every particular, the completest and most exhaustive yet published.

A Tale of Two Nations. By W. H. Harvey Coin Publishing Company, Chicago.

"Second Edition One Hundred Thousand" heads the title page of this little paper bound book by the well known—west at least—author of "Coin's Financial School." It is a "free silver" novel and the opening reads as though the author were dealing with

history thinly veiled. Silver men will find comfort in its pages while gold men will not. Of one thing we may be quite sure, namely, that there is a terrible disease threatening, or afflicting the body politic, and that our financial doctors are quarreling over the diagnosis.

Electricity in Electro-Therapeutics. By Edwin J. Johnson, Ph. D., and A. E. Kennelly, Sc. D., New York. The W. J. Johnson Company, 253 Broadway. 1896.

This is one of the "Elementary Electro-technical series." It is a book of 401 pages. Its authors are not physicians, but they write on the subject of the physics of electricity, and give such information on the subject of electro-technics, as every physician, who is interested in the treatment of disease by electricity, may not possess—elemental to be sure but the elemental of the electrician.

The *Revue Homœopathique Belge* of Janvier 1896, contains a review of "*Catéchisme de Matière Médicale Pure*," par le Dr. W. A. Dewey's, Editeur; Willmar Schwabe, Leipzig," in other words the German edition of our friend Dewey's *Essentials of Homœopathic Materia Medica*. Two pages are devoted to a very favorable review which, however, is rather spoiled, by no credit being given for the work to the American publishers or the fact that the author is an American.

Fifth annual report of the State Board of Medical Examiners of New Jersey, 1895, to hand. Seventy-six candidates examined and about twenty-four per cent rejected. Wm. Perry Watton, M. D., Jersey City, is Secretary of the Board and Edwin de Baun, Passaic, President.

A bright young homœopathic practitioner remarked the other day, anent *The Regional and Comparative Materia Medica*, recently published: "I'm stuck on that book." By this colloquial expression he did not mean that he was financially "stuck" but used the word in its later sense which can only be rendered into dignified language by such a cumbersome sentence as "I have conceived a strong liking for the book, finding it

exceedingly useful in my practice." It is not so much a book for students as for men in active practice. If an eye, ear, heart, lung or stomach symptom is wanted, look for them in this book, as it is the most convenient place to find them. It is a "regional" materia medica and under the various familiar headings of the schema will be found grouped the distinguishing symptoms of the whole materia medica. And thus, to still further lighten, or shorten, the labor of the doctor, each of the forty-two divisions has a very convenient repertorial index following it. It will probably take its place among what we may call our "permanent" text books, such as Raue's work on practice, *Special Pathology*, Hering's *Condensed Materia Medica*, Farrington's *Clinical Materia Medica*, and books of that class.

Messrs. Boericke & Tafel have placed in the compositors' hands the manuscript of a new work under the title of *A Practical Working Handbook in the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Diseases of the Genito-urinary System*. It is a work based on the excellent and thoroughly practical clinical lectures by F. E. Doughty, M. D., of the New York Homœopathic Medical College, reported by Dr. George Parker Holden. It will be a thorough and *practical* work, such as is demanded by the newer generation who want to go right to the point without unnecessary circumlocution. It will not be a very large or expensive book, but handy and within the means of all.

The publishers of Raue's work on practice (*Special Pathology*) announce that the fourth edition will be off press about May 1st. It is the book on practice that all believers in what is termed "pure Homœopathy" adopt. The fourth edition has been thoroughly revised and considerable new matter added.

"I have read the various chapters of your work (Bradford's *Life of Hahnemann*), as they have appeared in the RECORDER, and have derived much pleasure and profit from their perusal. I am sure your work, when published as a volume, will be of great service to the cause, and I consider it the best *Life of Hahnemann* that has yet appeared."—R. E. Dudgeon, M. D., London, Eng.

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POLYPHARMACY AGAIN.

Mr. Editor: A traveling man called upon me a day or two ago, representing one of our Chicago pharmacies which prides itself upon the fine and varied line of compound tablets it prepares. (It is not unique, in this, however.)

After introducing himself he opened his case of tablets and tinctures, and then looked blankly about the room for the usual display of drugs, and the chill deepened when I opened the drawers of my desk to show him my potencies and told him of my alma mater.

"I can not use them because I am a Homœopath."

"But I sell them to nine out of ten of the Homœopaths I meet, and they report just as good results from the use of them as with the other method of practice."

He urged upon my attention several favorite preparations highly praised by the doctors, but I declined to try them, giving the reasons so well known to the friends of pure Homœopathy.—*Medical Visitor*.

The above dialogue sounds very realistic and we have no doubt that it occurred just as stated and no doubt this dialogue is repeated in the office of every true believer in the principles of Homœopathy. It strikes us as a curious fact that this same argument used by the above-quoted traveling man is also used by practitioners themselves who use these preparations and also who will use the numerous Cheap-John Homœopathic remedies, many of which we are thoroughly convinced are entirely worthless in accurate prescribing. In preparing a remedy for Homœopathic use, no care or expense should be spared to make it exactly in the way the remedy was made from which the proving was attained; in tinctures this should not only apply to the proportions of menstrum employed in its preparation and their purity but also to the part of plant used and the exact time of year that the plant is gathered. There is a decided difference in the virtue of remedies made from plants gathered at different times; for instance, it is known, and we have observed it in our own experience, that a person susceptible to poisoning from the poison ivy can at one time take a nap in a bed of poison ivy without being affected, whereas at another time he will be poi-