

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-

soned by the mere proximity of the plant. There is even a greater difference in the mineral and animal preparations. Moreover, every Homœopath knows that the symptoms produced by an impure chemical or one containing foreign matter must be different than those produced by the same substance without the addition of foreign matter. A conscientious pharmacist will spare no trouble nor expense in having the preparation just what it should be, the only alternative being that he cannot furnish the remedy at all. For the physician to claim that he gets the results from the one just the same as from the other is certainly a great encouragement for the polypharmacist, and the larger this class of physicians grow, the more serious will be the effect on the future of Homœopathy.

"THE MAKING OF TABLETS," such is the heading of a paper in that bright little drug journal, *The Spatula*, intended, of course, for drug men and not physicians' reading. Every physician knows that when he prescribes a tablet purporting to contain a certain drug in combination with sugar of milk, he does not want the tablet maker to add other drugs. Yet the people who make their tablets by machinery are compelled to add other drugs that are not on the label in order to turn out their machine product. A few drugs can be run through the machine without the addition of other drugs, but, says the writer in *The Spatula*, "by far the greater number" must be specially prepared before they can be successfully made. The various articles, not down on the labels, used by makers of machine tablets, according to this writer, are powdered acacia, starch, glucose, bicarbonate of soda, tartaric acid, citric acid, white vaseline, powdered talcum, boric acid and a solution of vaseline in ether. He is a wise physician who sticks to the tablets made according to Dr. Robert M. Fuller's method.

WE HAVE seen a letter dated February 14, 1896, from a firm of Michigan analytical chemists, addressed to Boericke & Tafel, of Chicago, giving results of an analysis of unfermented grape juice sold in bulk, by a local druggist. Of course, he "guaranteed" his goods to be "just as good," etc., but they turn out to be "rich in salicylic acid," and unfit for use. Physicians might as well understand that any grape juice that is kept on draught or sold in bulk is preserved by salicylic acid and is unfit for either the sick or the hale. It holds out the alluring basis of cheapness, but being unfit for use it would be dear as a gift.

DEALERS in cheap drugs usually make an attempt at supplying an article that at least has a resemblance to the one asked for by the buyer. But even this seems to be disregarded by some of them. We have before us a drachm vial of what was purchased from a pharmacist who makes a specialty of cheapness, for Mullein Oil. What the stuff is no one but the seller can determine, but anyone who knows the genuine Mullein Oil can see at a glance that it is *not* Mullein Oil. It looks more like an inferior ink than anything else, being black in color and leaving a black spot on paper. It sells at a very low price, but low as it is, the vial was a total loss to the purchaser, inasmuch as it is not what he wanted and he does not know what it is and therefore cannot use it. There is nothing to be gained by physicians, by encouraging these reckless cut-throat pharmacists and certainly not by patients.

HELODERMA HORRIDUS.—The New York *Sun* publishes an article on the Gila monster from which we clip the following, as showing the effects of the venom:

"Among the Yuma Indians is a squaw who was bitten by one of these reptiles over thirty years ago. What decoction was given to the woman to save her life, or what the army physician at the United States garrison there did for the poor savage is not now known, but she is pointed out by whites and Indians in the town of Yuma as the only person in that locality that ever survived the poison of the Gila monster. This woman's leg, which was bitten, has shriveled away to half the size of the other leg, and the squaw has been a semi-idiot since her accident. For several years she claimed to be deaf from the effects of the reptile's venom.

"Where the afflicted person survives an hour or two after the bite the agony is described as awful to witness. The venom of the rattlesnake is somewhat numbing in its effect, and after the first half hour is not so very painful, but the poison of the Gila monster goes through the human system with lightning rapidity, and causes unspeakable pain and excruciating agony from head to foot. The victim seems to be paralyzed, and yet every muscle, bone, sinew and particle of gray matter is keenly alive to intense pain. The sufferer's head seems as if it would split open. Very few persons bitten by a Gila monster can speak after the first fifteen minutes, but unconsciousness seldom comes until a few minutes before death. Physicians say that the poison sets up a tremendous action of the heart, and the victim really dies of heart failure."

PERSONAL.

Dr. Geo. Parker Holden has removed from 256 W. 55th St. to 144 W. 44th St., New York.

There is a probability of a Greater New York, but can there be a possibility of a Greater Chicago?

The *Journal of Hygiene* dogmatically asserts that "man is not by nature a spitter."

Alas, Freddie's Slate is now condemned by those restless bacteriologists and ordered out of school.

Dr. C. N. Guy has removed from Main to Greene, N. Y.

Dr. Homer I. Ostrom has completed his "Private Surgical Hospital," 127 W. 47th St., New York.

Dr. C. H. Helfrich has removed from 136 W. 48th St. to 158 W. 47th St., New York. Dr. Helfrich is one of the editors of the *Hom. Eye, Ear and Throat Journal*.

The Omaha Homœopaths have been holding a lecture course on Homœopathy.

The male trained nurse seems to be coming to the front.

Professor Charrin claims to have discovered the microbe of hemorrhage. Others discovered it before him; Fitzsimmons' fist is a good specimen.

The oldest medical prescription is that of a "hair tonic," written B. C. 4000.

Dr. Conrad Berens, Philadelphia, has removed to 1707 Arch St.

Dr. Mackecknie has removed to Hartley House, Bath, England.

In a case, recently, a surgeon had to be called in to relieve the patient from the pack of "compressed," or machine-made tablets, he had been taking.

Dr. J. T. Kent has removed his office to 2009 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

Give thy tongue a rest occasionally and let thine ears have some exercise.

"THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER has no superior as a defender of the Homœopathy of the patriarchs." *Medical Century*. Rock bottom.

The man who has been advertising to make short men tall has disappeared, leaving them all shorter than ever.

Obstinate cases of blood-spitting will often yield to *Acalypha Indica*.

Have you seen the superb new volume, father Hahnemann's *Chronic Diseases*?

Four books in one month is not a bad record for publishers Boericke & Tafel.

"Man wants but little here below," only this little earth.

It was recently affirmed by a physician that the use of cod-liver oil is making the American nation more dyspeptic than ever.

In some States now the "theatre hat" is not only vulgar but unlawful also.

There is an opening for a Homœopathic physician at Kennebunkport, Maine, where there has been no Homœopathic practitioner since the death of the doctor there a year ago. There is a good opening for an active man. Address communications for information, etc., to Rev. F. M. Lamb, Kennebunkport, Me.

The April 1st joker celebrates his own day.

When thou art offered a chromo for an order of goods thinkest thou to get something for nothing?

THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORDER.

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THE DEFENCE OF THE ORGANON.

Hahnemann's Defence of the Organon of Rational Medicine, and of his previous Homœopathic Works, Against the Attacks of Prof. Hecker. An Explanatory Commentary on the Homœopathic System. Translated by R. E. Dudgeon, M. D. Philadelphia. Boericke & Tafel. 1896. 12mo., pp. 130.

In the appearance of this book at this particular time there is something singularly and most happily opportune. In Puritanic times a special Providence would be devoutly and gratefully recognized. In these devil-ridden days one dare not try to imagine how this measure will be received.

June next will behold professedly homœopathic physicians gravely discussing whether the basic principle of Homœopathy has been proven to be valid; whether the "science" of the hypodermic syringe and the animal extract endorses its cardinal postulate—and if it does not, what remains but universal dissolution as the end of the first century of Homœopathy!

History repeats itself, and we have all heard of the feeble-minded person who sawed off the limb of the tree upon which he was sitting. And history repeats itself in other than such *felo de se* instances, for what Lowell has written of England in Swift's time is true of to-day: "There seems to have been a universal scepticism, and in its most dangerous form, that is, united with a universal pretence to conformity. *There was an unbelief that did not believe even in itself.*" What a *fin de siècle* triumph!

It is devoutly to be wished that the debators which are to assemble in Detroit will read the work under notice. In it they will find Hahnemann handling a Philistine very much as Tabby does a mouse. They will find him dispelling thicker clouds than any they can raise, and resolving more ingenious (and I