

sumption. We concluded to try the efficacy of the tissue remedies for awhile, and to watch the case for further developments.

*Kali sulph.* 3x was dusted upon the sore lip four times a day, it having been washed off each time previously with a solution of *Kali sulph.* in warm water. The same remedy was given internally, and from the start the effect was marvelous in its curative power. In three weeks the lip was well, and there has been no return of any suspicious symptoms.

Mr. W., aet. thirty-three, came to me with an arm swollen to twice its normal size, very red, painful and feverish. In the history he claimed to have been poisoned while in the woods over a week before, and the arm seemed to be getting so much worse that he was alarmed about it.

*Kali sulph.* 3x was rubbed over the arm twice or three times a day, and the same potency of it was taken internally every hour. The next day the arm was greatly improved, and in three more days the external application was stopped, when the swelling again became aggravated. *Kali sulph.* locally, was continued, and within a week the arm was well. The aggravation was readily noted immediately upon stopping the local application, although the medicine was given internally during the time. Did the local application effect a cure without the aid of the internal medication?

From the records of a number of cases of diphtheria, I find that I have had uniformly better success in those in which *Kali mur.* 2x or 3x has been used locally in the throat, both by the means of the insufflator and as a gargle, especially if the case is seen early will the benefits be marked. However, I have had some bad cases, the kind which try men's souls, and which seemed to resist everything until this remedy was used locally, when the membrane then cleared off like magic. While I cannot say that it will positively work successfully every time, I have so far been uniformly successful when this has been used.

I have never tried the antitoxin treatment for diphtheria because I began using the *Kali mur.* before the antitoxin became known to me, and have no occasion to test its merits, *Kali mur.* so far always fully answering my purpose. Sometimes something else is given internally when the disease has gotten under good headway; but usually blowing or dusting or gargling (according to the case) the throat two, three or more times the first few hours, increasing or lessening the number of times as

may be necessary, and good big powders taken into the stomach, followed by a little whiskey water or brandy water if the patient needs the stimulus, will bring about a good and speedy result. It is the time tried remedy that we rely on in our difficult cases, and *Kali mur.* (if honestly prepared) will always aid one in this class of cases.—Dr. F. D. Bittinger, Dayton, O., in the *Clinique.*

#### PHYTOLACCA DECANDRA FOLIA.

In November, 1895, the RECORDER printed a note taken from the *South Carolina Medical Journal*, by Dr. Goodman, in which he said that the juice of phytolacca leaves has a strong and beneficial action on epithelioma, completely destroying the morbid tissues; it "has a selective action for the morbid tissue," he wrote and "follows out all the irregularities of the epithelioma; causes, as it were, its liquefaction and removal, and then acts as a cicatrizant for the open sore."

Messrs. Boericke & Tafel prepared a strong tincture of the juice of the leaves and also made an ointment from them. Nothing further was heard of the remedy until the appearance of the May number of the *Homœopathic World* which contained a paper by the veterinarian J. Sutcliffe Hurndall, of London, "On the Power of Drugs in Dispersing Pathological Growths," (reprinted in the June RECORDER). Among the remedies used, on dogs, was mentioned *Phytolacca Decandra Folia* that had been sent to Mr. Hurndall by Boericke & Tafel. The remedy had been used locally only on carcinomatous growths, and upon the bull bitches it exercised a potent influence, so much so that the owner of the bitches seems inclined to pin his faith to this agent exclusively."

No mention is made of this agent in the modern dispensatories, but Dr. Scudder's *Eclectic Medical Journal* for July says that it was mentioned in King's *American Dispensatory*, a very old publication; in Thatcher's *American New Dispensatory*, 1821, and the American edition of the *Edinburgh New Dispensatory* of 1818. These authorities seem to think that the reputation of the remedy is attributed to an "imperfect discrimination between malignant ulcers and those of a cancerous nature." The recent experiences, however, that we have quoted, seem to show that these authorities were mistaken, and that, topically applied, the juice of the leaves does exert a most potent effect on cancerous growths. It

is at least worth a trial in cases that refuse to yield to other treatment. If it will, as Dr. Goodman asserts, follow out and remove the "irregularities of the epithelioma," it is better than the knife. At the same time constitutional remedies should be given to prevent the return of the growth when once removed.

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#### REVIVAL OF GUAIIACUM.

The London correspondent of the *Medical Record* says that in medical circles there has been a "rehabilitation of Guaiacum," and several eminent gentlemen are reported as speaking strongly in its favor at a meeting of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, although it has fallen almost into disuse with the rank and file of the profession. It is not at all surprising to see one of the *Chronic Disease* remedies coming to the front, for there were never any remedies that received the same amount of study from a ripe mind as was bestowed on these by Hahnemann. In the preface to *Guaiacum*, or as it is spelled in that book *Guajacum*, he says: "The homœopathic physician will not allow himself to be led astray by the indefinite and delusive recommendation of the old *Materia Medica* to use *Guajacum* for gout and rheumatism. He will not look to fictitious names of diseases, but he will look to the similarity of the symptoms existing on the one side in the disease to be healed, and on the other in the symptoms excited by the remedy. In diseases for which it is homœopathically appropriate it has shown itself serviceable especially where the following ailments were present: Attacks of cephalagra; swelling of the eyes; painful straining in the ears; sensation of mucus in the throat, causing nausea; repugnance to milk; constipation; stitches in the chest; arthritic lancination in the limbs, especially contractions produced by tearing, lancinating pains in the limbs, where the pains are produced by the slightest motion and are combined with heat in the painful parts, especially after previous misuse of *Mercury*; pulmonary consumption with fetid pus, etc."

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#### LYCOPODIUM FOR BOILS AND STONE IN THE BLADDER.

The following is from a little pamphlet published by Thomas Christy, of London. Homœopathic works could have told the

writer of this action of *Lycopodium* on boils, but, we believe, none of them mention its effect on stone in the bladder.

"Some years since I found that the tincture, if taken twice a day, cured boils and eradicated them from the system—ten drops being taken (fasting) twice a day. This was tested by very many physicians and surgeons. Details of results have been published and circulated, showing the numerous and valuable results which were revealed of its action in internal disorders, especially of the bladder, when much larger doses were given, up to a small teaspoonful. It is a perfectly safe medicine, and can be given to children for pustules on the eyelids (styes) which generally disappear in eight or ten hours after one or two doses.

"It has been found to have a singular action in dissolving stone in the bladder. A specimen has been placed in St. Peter's Hospital that was passed by a man, showing how the surface was eaten away in three days. In case of pain in the feet and legs, ten drops twice a day has given relief."

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#### BOOK NOTICES AND GOSSIP.

**The Student's Medical Dictionary.** Including all words and phrases generally used in medicine, with their proper pronunciation and definitions, based on recent medical literature. By George M. Gould, A. M., M. D. Tenth edition, rewritten and enlarged. 701 pages, 8vo. Half dark leather, \$3.25. Half morocco, thumb index, \$4.00, *net.* P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia, 1896.

The author of this very popular and successful dictionary, the tenth edition of which now appears from entirely new plates, was for several years the editor of the *Medical News*, a journal made famous under his control for its old-fashioned assaults on Homœopathy. But, however we may differ from Dr. Gould in his estimate of the natural therapeutic law of cure, we must give him credit for a perfectly fair and accurate definition of the word "Homeopathy"—though we prefer Homœopathy. Here it is: "A system of treatment of disease by the use of agents that, administered in health, would produce symptoms similar to those for the relief of which they are given," which is certainly accurate. Each word is followed by the words from the Greek or other languages from which it is derived, and this by phonetic spelling indicating the proper pronunciation.

Forty six "tables" are given such as tables of acids, anesthetics, arteries, bacteria and so on. Taken all in all the dictionary is one that may be commended to all medical students as being at once full, accurate and very reasonable in price.

**Practical Points in Nursing for Nurses in Private Practice.**

With an appendix containing rules for feeding the sick; recipes for invalid foods and beverages; weights and measures; dose list; and a full glossary of medical terms and nursing treatment. By Emily A. M. Stoney. 456 pages, 8vo, cloth, \$1.75. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1896.

The author of this book is a graduate of the Training School for Nurses at Lawrence, Mass., and is now superintendent of the Training School for Nurses of the Carney Hospital at South Boston. Miss Stoney says in her preface that her object is to explain in popular language and in the shortest possible form the entire range of *private* nursing as distinguished from hospital nursing and to instruct the nurse how best to meet the various emergencies of medical and surgical cases when distant from medical or surgical aid, or when thrown on her own resources. We know nothing about nursing and are not competent to pass on the merits of the book, but it seems to be very practical and full of good sense. The section on the "Action of Medicines," though, is slightly amusing. "The action of medicine," we are told, "must always be reported, as sometimes it is the reverse of what is expected; this is called an 'idiosyncrasy,'" to which Miss Stoney might have added, "and if fatal it is called an accident." Further on she says: "When patients have been taking a drug for some time they become accustomed to it, and can take a large quantity *without injury*, a habit being formed. It therefore takes a larger quantity to produce the result, and a longer time for the drug to take effect. It is in this way that the opium, morphine, chloral and cocaine habits originate." However, the nurse is not responsible for the medicine excepting to administer it according to orders. The book contains many excellent illustrations got up in Mr. Saunders' usual excellent style.

**A Treatise on Appendicitis.** By John B. Deaver, M. D., Surgeon of the German Hospital, Philadelphia. 168 pages, 8vo. Cloth, \$3.50. Philadelphia. P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1896.

Appendicitis ought to feel proud of being the cause of so fine a book—thirty-two full-page plates, over half of them in color, not to mention minor cuts, luxurious paper and type and all backed by an author with a terse, clear and forcible style. No one who believes in operation for this disease should fail to get this book, for it goes into the "fashionable disease" to the fullest extent, always, of course, barring homœopathic therapeutics. The practical keynote of the book is contained in the following quotation: "In the treatment of appendicitis my observations have forced me to the conclusion that there is but one course to pursue in order to obtain the best possible results, viz: to remove the appendix as soon as the diagnosis has been made." Dr. Deaver's work is the completest, as well as the latest, on this important operation, and it will undoubtedly attract much merited attention from the profession.

**A Manual of Obstetrics.** By W. A. Newman Dorland, A. M., M. D., Assistant Demonstrator of Obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania. 163 illustrations in the text and six full-page plates. 760 pages; cloth, \$2.50. Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders. 1896.

The primary object of Dr. Dorland's manual is to give a rational and systematic presentation of the subject of obstetrics as recognized by the leading teachers of the day. To this end he has adopted a combined clinical, physiologic and pathologic basis for his work. The book is divided into two parts; one on Physiologic Obstetrics of eight chapters, in which normal conditions are treated; and the other on Pathologic Obstetrics of six chapters, treating of the vast number of abnormal conditions that may confront any obstetrician. In a work of this sort the homœopathic practitioner sadly misses the rich therapeutic methods to be found in such works as Guernsey's, but, bearing these in mind, the remainder of the work can be commended as the latest word of experience on the subject treated.

WE have received a copy of "The Hahnemannian Oration," delivered by Dr. Arndt at the Jubilee Meeting of the California Homœopathic Medical Society, San Francisco, May 13th, 1896. It contains a half-tone of the picture of Hahnemann that appeared in the third edition of the *Organon* (1829). One point only of the oration will be quoted here: "To advance the true

science of therapeutics we must remain what we are now: *Specialists in therapeutics.*" Right! Do not carp at the work on *Materia Medica* in the past, but study and develop it in its application to the cure of disease.

IF any reader of the RECORDER wants to freshen his Latin he ought to subscribe for that unique little journal, *Præco Latinus*. The price is \$1. published monthly at 1328 Spring Garden street, Philadelphia. It is published for the dissemination and encouragement of the Latin speech and literature.

FROM Madrid, Spain, comes *El Propagador Homeopático; Organó del Instituto Homeopático y Hospital de San José*, the latest homœopathic periodical, dated "Ano 1, Madrid, Junio de 1896, Nos. 1 y 2." The editor is Dr. D. Luis de Hysern, Plaza de la Independencia, Num. 8. We wish the new journal success in its honorable mission.

THE *North American Journal of Homœopathy* for July devotes seventeen lines to a review of the *Chronic Diseases*, concluding as follows: "The work is too well known to need to be commended to the profession, and will in its new and improved form find favor with many." By the way, how many readers of the RECORDER and of the *North American Journal* have read it? A not inconsiderable number believe, on what seems to be tradition, that because Hahnemann was "unaware" of the existence of the *acarus scabiei* he made a monumental blunder in writing this book, which modern science has exposed. There has been a great cloud of error around this book ever since it was written, but those who have read it know that the cloud does not rest on the book. Sometimes the reading of a book, the getting of information at first hands, is a great eye-opener.

THE announcement of Pulte Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, for 1896-97, comes to hand. Of the list of books it is said: "Titles of books printed in italics will be used as text-books. The others for reference." Among the books in italics are Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* and the *Organon*, Farrington's *Clinical Materia Medica*, Wood's *Gynecology*, and Norton's *Ophthalmic Diseases and Therapeutics*. We are glad to see that the new Homœopathic *Text-book of Surgery* leads the list on surgery in italics.

### THE CHRONIC DISEASES.

The desire to make many books does not lie behind the new English and American versions of the *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases* of Hahnemann. The only translations of these extensive and important works were those of Hempel, published in New York in the years 1845 and 1846. No small controversy took place between the supporters and detractors of Hempel's translations (among whom may be mentioned Dr. Cockburn on the one side and Dr. David Wilson on the other), evidences of which will be found in the *British Journal of Homœopathy* and in early volumes of this *Review*.

In the year 1877 Dr. Hughes (then one of the editors of the *British Journal of Homœopathy*) admits that Dr. Wilson's case against Hempel was abundantly made out, and himself concludes "that we do not really possess Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura* and *Chronic Diseases* in the English tongue." The numerous "curtailments, omissions and obvious mistranslations" of Hempel form the ground for this strong statement.

In the year 1880, with his usual readiness in furthering the cause of Homœopathy, Dr. Dudgeon issued the first volume of his new and now renowned translation of the *Materia Medica Pura*. The second volume followed the next year. This is so well known that we need not comment upon it.

When writing on the subject of the revision of the *Materia Medica* in a paper contributed in the *North American Journal of Homœopathy* in February, 1883, Dr. Hughes urged that our colleagues in the United States should re-translate the *Chronic Diseases*, as Dr. Dudgeon had done the *Materia Medica Pura*. For several years this appeal was unheeded, and even when it was to some extent responded to, it was by a proposal to reprint Hempel's translation. Earnest representations were made by Dr. Hughes, and supported by ourselves (July, 1893, p. 431), as to the inadvisability of this procedure. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed, and in October, 1894, we made the announcement that the United States had at length undertaken the work of re-translation.

Dr. Hughes has kept his promise—a work of no slight labor—and fully "annotated" the new version. This consists in giving information as to Hahnemann's fellow-workers, and tracing all quotations to their source, verifying or correcting as might be necessary. Explanations of the value of individual symptoms are also given in footnotes (*e. g.*, colocynt, 114), at once placing them in their true light.

It is not the duty of reviewers of this new version of Hahnemann's work on *Chronic Diseases* to discuss the opinions and

statements of the author. The simpler one lies before us of stating how far, in our judgment, the present translator and editor have succeeded in placing before English speaking readers the original meaning of Hahnemann. Besides the faults pointed out earlier, Hempel's versions are in many instances not to be called translations, but rather free renderings or loose paraphrases. The present version, we are told in the preface, consists of a faithful translation, not only of Hahnemann's ideas but of his expressions. That this is the safer plan we convinced ourselves some years ago when commencing a translation of the essay *On the Nature of Chronic Diseases*, and on comparing our own with Hempel's version. In sentences so long and involved as Hahnemann's often are, it is better to give as literal a translation as is admissible, and to leave the reader to attach his own meaning when the sense appears ambiguous. In many instances Professor Tafel has rendered the essays much more readable by breaking up the author's sentences into two or three in English. This is both permissible and advantageous.

We do not pretend to have read the whole of the essays or pathogenesses, but we have selected a considerable number of passages in both, and have compared them with the original. We have no hesitation in saying that although we should here and there have rendered slightly differently, that this work, conducted by our American *confrères*, together with the help of Dr. Hughes, is a vast improvement on anything we have previously had in the English tongue. The alterations we would have preferred are chiefly those of style, and might have been avoided by having the proofs read over by an English colleague. The too free use of the definite article is conspicuous, *e. g.*, in the title itself "*The*" *Chronic Diseases*, and in such an expression as "diminution of *the* sexual desire." Also a too literal (or German) rendering is noticeable *e. g.*, "she, fainting, leaned against the wall." Again, some popular expressions such as "gum" for schleim, "purples" for purpurfriesel, and "half-vision" for halbsichtigkeit seem somewhat out of place in a purely professional work. In drawing attention to these unimportant points we do so rather to show that we have found blemishes only in non-essentials. We regret, nevertheless, that so good a translation has not been saved these types of faults so easily preventable.

With respect to the style and productions of the volume, the binding (half morocco) is good, paper and type also. There is no undue crowding of the letterpress. Printers' errors are not very frequent, except in Dr. Hughes' part of the work—due to his not seeing a proof. The one feature we are sorrow for in the work is that it is in one volume. This causes it to be too heavy for comfortable use; 1,600 pages is certainly too much to crowd into one cover. Moreover, more uniformity with the already published *Materia Medica Pura* would have been secured by issuing the work in two volumes.—*Monthly Homœopathic Review*.

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### HOW TO REFORM THE WORLD.

Dr. G. Frank Lydston has a scheme for reforming the world, which he airs in *The Medical News*. In brief he proposes to refuse marriage licenses to criminals, epileptics, syphilitics, consumptives, drunkards and people of that sort. "That the product of the factory of degenerates set in operation by licensing such people, is a menace and a burden to society, goes without saying. Has society a right to protect itself against its own vicious offscourings? I believe it has. I think the time will come when it will be no longer possible for our army of degenerates to procure licenses to marry." And when the stern license clerk has sized up his man and said "no," the man will be unable to marry and thus procreate his kind. How very simple is the plan!

The reforming doctor would even go a step further with "habitual criminals, certain murderers and rapists," whom he evidently considers would not respect the license clerk's denial of the document necessary to a wedding and proposes that they be deprived of their testicles; these criminals should "expiate their crimes by benefiting scientific medicine." Thus does Dr. Lydston propose to scientifically bring again the age of gold. The doctor seems to have great respect for women, or believes them all to be pure, for he says nothing about removing their sexual apparatus for the benefit of scientific medicine and society.

We do not think Dr. Lydston is radical enough; for if it would be a good thing to prevent criminals, epileptics, syphilitics, consumptives and drunkards from having children by refusing them marriage licenses, why not go a step further and include gonorrhœaics, catarrhals, leucorrhœaics, scrofulics, dyspeptics, gluttons, hypocrites, liars, flatterers, parasites, backbiters, adulterers, extortioners, cranks and lastly, that numerous class