

Hand Book of Materia Medica, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, including the physiological action of drugs, the special therapeutics of disease, official and extemporaneous pharmacy, and minute directions for prescription-writing. By S. O. L. Potter, M.A., M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Cooper Medical College of San Francisco, etc. Philadelphia: P. Blackiston, Son & Co. 1887. 8vo, pp. 828. Price \$3.

This work has been written for the use of physicians, and will doubtless prove of value owing to its condensed form and the general correctness of the statements relating to physiological action and therapeutic application. The first part contains upon nearly 400 pages an enumeration of pharmacopœial and other drugs arranged in alphabetical order, giving under each head the Latin and English names, the derivation, and a brief description, usually condensed from the Pharmacopœia, the most striking characters being preferably given; these are followed by the constituents, the preparations, physiological action and therapeutics. It is particularly in the constituents that quite a number of inaccuracies occur. Jalapin is said (p.350) to be probably identical with convolvulin, which is insoluble in ether, and the ether soluble resin of jalap is called jalapin (p. 238) although it is re-precipitated from its alkali solution by acids. Oil of juniper, a hydrocarbon, is stated (p. 240) to consist of terpenes and camphors; kamala is said to contain starch; the terpene valerene of oil of valerian (p.384) to be produced by oxidation; olive oil (p. 273) to contain the stearopten palmitin; the crystalline lactucerin (p. 244) to resemble caoutchouc, etc. The first part closes with a well-written chapter on the classification of medicines.

The second part is on pharmacy and prescription writing. The pharmaceutical operations, the different classes of pharmacopœial preparations, and weights and measures are briefly explained, followed by a chapter on prescriptions, in which a great deal of good advice is given, notably in the paragraphs on prescription writing and prescription blanks. The succeeding paragraph on renewals opens well, but a few lines further on the author enters upon the war-path against the "average druggist," and finally pictures the good results for the pockets of the patient and of the physician, and the loss to their "enemies," if the physician was to carry a small stock of ready-made medicines. The second part concludes with the consideration of incompatibles and of the various forms of extemporaneous preparations.

Part III is devoted to special therapeutics, the diseases being considered in alphabetical order; and an appendix contains a list of Latin words and phrases, genitive case endings, various formulas, treatment of poisoning, differential diagnosis, clinical examination of urine, and other useful information. A carefully prepared index facilitates the use of the book.

Pocket Medical Formulary arranged therapeutically. By A. Hazard, M.D., and B. M. Goldberg, M.D. Revised and enlarged by A. S. Gerhard, A.M., M.D., Professor of General Pathology, Medical Jurisprudence and Clinical Medicine at the Medico-Chirurgical College, Philadelphia. With an Appendix containing formulas and doses of hypodermic medication, a table of eruptive fevers and poisons, their symptoms, antidotes and treatment. Philadelphia. Collins, printer, 1886. 16mo, pp. 334. Price, \$2.

The title of this little book fully explains its scope. Eleven hundred formulas are given, a large number being by prominent American physicians, and each is credited to its author. The arrangement is alphabetical, on a therapeutic basis, and by the use of the patent index all references are readily made. With each letter a number of blank leaves have been bound for the recording of additional formulas. The book is bound in flexible morocco, and being conveniently carried in the pocket, is always readily accessible to the practitioner.

Conklin's Handy Manual of Useful Information. Compiled by Prof. G. W. Conklin of the Hamilton University, Chicago. G. W. Ogilvie. 24mo, pp. 316. Price, 25 cents.

It contains a large number of statistics, and in a condensed form a great deal of information on all kinds of subjects.

Karl Theodor Mohr. Eine Biographische Skizze mit Einleitung, Aphorismen zur Geschichte der Pharmacie.

This reprint from the February number of the *Pharmaceutische Rundschau*, New York, contains a biographical sketch of Mr. Chas. T. Mohr of Mobile, Ala., whose explorations of the flora, more especially of the South-western states, have made him favorably known at home and abroad. The introduction, Aphorisms to the History of Pharmacy, is from the pen of the editor, Dr. F. Hoffmann.

Die Untersuchungs Anstalten für Nahrungs- und Genussmittel sowie Gebrauchsgegenstände, deren Organisation und Wirkungskreis. Referat von Herrn Professor Dr. Albert Hilger (Erlangen). Braunschweig. Fr. Vieweg & Sohn, 1887. 8vo, pp. 26.

This pamphlet is a reprint from the German Quarterly Journal of Public Hygiene, and contains the transactions of the German Society for public hygiene in relation to a report made by Prof. Hilger on the organization and sphere of action of public institutions for the examination of articles of food, drink and general use.

Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Inspector of Milk and Vinegar for the year 1886. Boston, 1887. 8vo, pp. 63.

The report is by Prof. Jas. F. Babcock, who acted as chemist for the department of inspection for a number of years, until he was placed at its head.

Record of Experiments at Fort Scott, Kansas, in the manufacture of sugar from sorghum and sugar-canes in 1886. By H. W. Wiley, chemist. Washington, 1887. 8mo, pp. 64.

This is Bulletin No. 14, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Chemistry.

Ueber den Nachweis des Cocains im Thierkörper. Von Leonhard Hemsing. Dorpat 1886. Pp. 39.

On the detection of cocaine in the animal body.

Éthérification de l'acide sulphurique dans l'eau de Rabel. Par Théophile Gautrand. Montpellier, 1787. Pp. 48.

Etherification of sulphuric acid in Rabel's water (alcohol and sulphuric acid, 3 : 1).

Papaina sua accao physiologica e therapeutica. Por Domingos Alberto Niobey. Rio de Janeiro, 1887. Pp. 92.

Papain, its physiological action and therapeutics.

We hope to prepare abstracts of the above three theses for a future number of the journal.

The Doctorate Address at the semi-centennial anniversary of the University of Louisville, Medical Department, March 2, 1887. By Professor David W. Yandell, M. D. 8vo, pp. 16.

Valedictory Address, Medical Department, University of California. By Professor A. L. Lengfeld, M. D. 8vo, pp. 12.

The Increased Efficacy of Massage, in combination with the electro-vapor bath. By F. E. Stewart, M. D., Ph.G.

Reprint from the *Medical Register*.

Sterility. Management of the Secundines. By Prof. W. A. Wathen, M. D., Louisville.

Report on Diseases of the Rectum. By Prof. Jos. M. Matthews, M. D., Louisville.

The reception of the above reprints is acknowledged.

The Source of the Mississippi. 4vo, pp. 16.

This interesting pamphlet is a reprint from "Science" of December 24, 1886, and contains a letter from Messrs. Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., (the publishers of *Science*) and the report of Hopewell Clarke, Chief of the I., B., T. & Co. expedition to the headwaters of the Mississippi, October 1886.

The Connoisseur. Illustrated quarterly of art and decoration. Published by Bailey, Banks & Biddle, Philadelphia. Price 50 cents a year.

An interesting and instructive periodical for lovers of art, containing instructive papers on various subjects and a large number of finely executed illustrations.