

DOSE-BOOK AND MANUAL OF PRESCRIPTION-WRITING. By E. Q. THORNTON, M.D., Ph.G., Demonstrator of Therapeutics in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia; Acting Assistant Surgeon in the United States Marine Hospital Service. Pp. vii. 334. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1895.

THE book is an excellent presentation of a subject which is usually imperfectly taught in the schools if we may take as evidence the prescriptions found in the journals and reports of society proceedings. In the first part the weights and measures, both English and metric, and the methods of conversion from one to the other system are clearly set forth and well within the comprehension of the average medical student. Prescription-writing proper occupies the second part. We heartily endorse the arguments for the use of Latin, and believe that the grammar, vocabulary, and general directions will be found to be ample for the acquisition of correct phraseology. The subject of incompatibility is illustrated by excellent examples; antipyrin might have been added to the list of substances mentioned.

Finally, the table of solubilities will be of frequent use, especially to the younger practitioner. The third part takes up the official preparations and methods of prescribing. The preparations are classified as *aceta*, *tinctura*, *vina*, etc., the doses given in both apothecary's and the metric systems, and illustrative prescriptions appended. The question of dosage and methods of administration receives attention in the fourth part, which closes with an extended list of official and officinal drugs and preparations, alphabetically arranged, and under each heading the substance is defined, its dose given, its preparations named, and occasionally remarks on its preparations or use.

In the appendix are to be found questions intended to test the knowledge of the student, and their answers. We have carefully examined this book and have found it to be singularly accurate, complete, and well adapted to the use of the student and junior practitioner. Of especial value we would note the insistence and example of the author in the avoidance of all abbreviations and the substantiation of his claim that this book is based upon the *Pharmacopœia* of 1890. R. W. W.