

“REFERENCE HAND-BOOK OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES.”

There are indeed few medical men who have been engaged in the practice of medicine for any length of time who do not know of the firm of Wm. Wood & Co., New York City. This house began business as publishers well-nigh one hundred years ago. At that date they were, as could be expected, in quite a small way, as the expression goes; but as years rolled by and the confidence of the medical men in them as a concern grew, they widened out and out, till today they occupy a very high position in the eyes of the medical publishing world. The books they have published from year to year have had an enormous sale, it having always been the case that the imprint of Wm. Wood & Co. upon the title page of any book at once stamps it as being *sans reproche*. Wm. Wood & Co. about sixteen years ago published a work which had meted out to it praise almost unlimited. We refer to “The Reference Hand-Book of the Medical Sciences.” It involved at that time an enormous outlay of money, money enough to swamp most firms, but it did not in the least cripple its publishers; instead of that, placing them as almost without rivals amongst medical publishers. We are given to understand that Dr. Albert Buck, of New York City, intends publishing at once a new and thoroughly revised edition of The Reference Hand-Book, and that the first volume of the new set will be out the latter end of this month. We feel sure that this announcement will be a source of great satisfaction to a large number of medical men. It will, as before, cover the entire field of medicine, surgery, and their allied sciences. To re-write a work of this size is a task almost incomprehensible; but it is already under way and will become ere long an accomplished fact. There is to be in connection with the work a splendid list of Department Advisers and in addition 300 or 400 writers, making when complete almost 500 contributors in all. The work will be freely illustrated and the paper of a considerably better quality than before, so as to bring out the beauty of the execution and the general elegance of the work. The first volume will alone contain fourteen beautiful chromo-lithographic plates.

Everyone must admit that any house willing to risk nearly a quarter of a million of dollars in issuing a system, such as The Reference Hand-Book in its second edition will be, at least deserves success. We feel that in this case Wm. Wood & Co. will receive from the medical profession the just and liberal recognition deserved by so great an expenditure as this investment involves.

Empyema of the Frontal Sinus.—Spiess refers to the uncertain results obtained by transillumination of the frontal sinus, as according to Vohsen the frontal sinus is wanting on both sides in 14 per cent. of cases, and in one side in 20 per cent. Hence the obscurity of one frontal sinus, associated with pus in the front of the middle meatus on the same side, might raise a suspicion, but would not do more than this. He then refers to the use of the Röntgen rays, and to the probing and washing out of the sinus through the infundibulum. He states that it is always difficult to know when the frontal catheter has actually entered the sinus, and had not strayed off into one of the infundibular cells. Puncture of the frontal sinus by boring under the control of the X-rays could be done easily, quickly, and with absolute certainty, so that a diagnosis can be made every time. As regards treatment, the endo-nasal trephining ought to be first employed in every case, external operation only if success is not obtained by his method, or if the patient insists upon operation.—*The Laryngoscope*.