

*Essentials of Bacteriology*: Being a concise and systematic introduction to the study of micro-organisms for the use of students and practitioners. By M. V. BALL, M.D., Bacteriologist to St. Agnes' Hospital, Philadelphia. Third edition, revised, with 81 illustrations, some in colors, and five plates. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 95 Walnut Street. 1897.

A mere condensation of large reference books, which in the process has retained much that is useless and spoiled that which might have been useful. With neither wit nor judgment in selection the compiler has sent forth a volume which is anything but what the introduction claims it to be.

When shall teachers realize that by pandering to the "loafer" they are ruining student and lowering profession?

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*The Ready Reference Hand-book of Diseases of the Skin*. By GEORGE THOMAS JACKSON, M.D. (Col.), Professor of Dermatology in the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, and in the Medical Department of the University of Vermont; Chief of Clinic and Instructor in Dermatology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Member of the American Dermatological Association and of the New York Dermatological Society. With seventy-five illustrations. Third edition, revised and enlarged. Lea Brothers & Co., New York and Philadelphia. 1899.

The fact that the first edition of this book appeared in 1892, the second in 1896, and the third in 1899, indicates that the work has been well received by the medical profession, and has given the author an opportunity to increase its value, not only by revising many of the sections, but also by adding descriptions of recently described diseases, such as Blastomycetic Dermatitis, X-Ray Dermatitis, Bulpiss, etc.

The general plan of the work—the arrangement of diseases alphabetically—remains the same, and forms in our opinion the principal objection to the book. We believe that the first principle in teaching any branch of medical science is to place before the student the best possible classification founded on a pathological basis, and we therefore could not recommend this work as a text-book for undergraduate students. Still, it has many commendable features. The illustrations are better and more numerous than those which are generally found in a volume of this size. The author's method of describing the symptomology is quite clear and satisfactory, and his treatment is both rational and practical. The appendix contains a long list of prescriptions which have been tried and proved of value by dermatologists. The volume, taken as a whole, can be safely recommended to physicians and will prove a very useful reference hand-book.