

book differing but slightly from another as to subject matter, scheme of treatment and mode of presentation. But in this instance Dr. Fulton has made a departure from the usual practice, and a departure for which every student who takes his work in hand will not fail to be grateful. It has evidently been the doctor's aim, to compress into as small a space as would be consistent with proper treatment of his subject, an amount of information which more ambitious writers have spun out into more or less unwieldy tomes. Thoroughness in medical instruction is, of course, indispensable; but thoroughness is quite compatible with conciseness. The German author who began his history of the German people with the creation of Adam and Eve was irreproachably thorough: but he was also unnecessarily tedious. By a judicious blending of completeness and conciseness, Dr. Fulton has produced a book which must meet with general favor. He has shown himself a perfect master of the by no means universal, knack of "boiling down," while his successful experience as an instructor has been of material advantage to him in the matter of judicious selection. The result is a work which, within the compass of some four hundred pages of large print, covers the ground as effectually as older and more pretentious hand books, without sacrificing either smoothness of style, or completeness of information to conciseness. Another feature worthy of note is the large proportion of space devoted to histology—a subject the importance of which, in connection with the study of physiology, can hardly be overestimated. Many of the chapters of the book have been re-written since the appearance of the first edition, and considerable new matter has been added, bringing the work to a level with the most recent additions to the knowledge we possess of the phenomena presented by the human organism. The illustrations are limited to the mere necessities of the text, and several new ones are added to the usual stereotyped cuts to be met with in all works on this subject. Throughout the whole book the author has in each instance given, in the case of thermometric observations, both the Fahrenheit and Centigrade readings; and in that of the dimensions of the various histological elements, the measurements on both the English and the metric scales. Such a plan will recommend itself to the student, and is worthy of imitation until such time as the Centigrade ther-

момeter and the metric system shall have been universally adopted in scientific works. The appendix contains a number of useful tables of dimensions, specific gravities, etc.,—another acceptable feature. The Text Book is intended more particularly for medical students, who will find that in its compilation the author has been closely attentive to their needs, and has devoted much careful labor to smoothing the difficulties in their path.

THE NATIONAL DISPENSATORY.—Containing the Natural History, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Actions and Uses of Medicines; including those recognized in the Pharmacopœias of the United States and Great Britain.—By Alfred Stillé, M.D., LL.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania; and John M. Maisch, Ph. D., Prof. of Materia Medica and Botany in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. With two hundred and one Illustrations. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea; Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

This work is worthy of a more extended notice than the space now at our disposal will allow. The authors are both men of large experience, and we naturally expect a book of much merit, nor are we disappointed in that just expectation. The arrangement is most convenient, each article being alphabetically recorded. All medicines recognized by either the British or United States pharmacopœias as well as many unofficial remedies are here included. In this latter respect, it differs from the United States Dispensatory. All the necessary pharmaceutical manipulations are fully explained. In regard to the therapeutical value of medicines, in most cases it is based upon clinical experience, physiological investigations taking a secondary place.

Dr. Stillé gives a decided preference for ether as an anæsthetic over chloroform, as being much safer. The larger number of deaths from chloroform than from ether, warrants him in arriving at this conclusion. The illustrative cuts are good, and the mechanical execution of the work all that can be desired.

ELEMENTARY ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE, for the use of Schools and families.—By Edward Playter, M.D. Editor of the Sanitary Journal. Illustrated. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

There is much need of a good elementary work on the subjects of Physiology and Hygiene,