

read them to consult the original articles. There is in this country altogether too great a tendency to subsist upon second-hand matter, and an unwillingness to consult original authorities. The good of the year-book or retrospect is to draw attention to the subject matter of articles, that those articles may be consulted in the original.

If the *American Year-Book of Medicine and Surgery* desires to publish merely careful abstracts of papers, then we cannot sufficiently censure the conduct of Messrs. William Wood & Co. If on the other hand the editors wish to publish verbatim, large portions of important articles, neglecting to print those portions which to them seem unimportant, or again if they want to publish articles *in extenso* without permission of the publishers and without payment to the authors, then in either case we cannot but think that Messrs. William Wood & Co have right on their side. All must depend upon the spirit in which the Editors of the Year-Book conduct their enterprise.

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE.

While upon this subject of publication of abstracts of medical work we may here call attention to a very important work first introduced to the public, we believe, by Professor Michael Foster, in his address before the International Medical Congress, at Rome, two years ago, and notably furthered by a conference which met in London last July under the auspices of the Royal Society.

All investigators in medical and other branches in science, know how difficult it is to obtain anything like a complete bibliography of the subject or subjects engaging their attention. In Medicine we are perhaps better provided for than in most other subjects, for the *Index Medicus* is singularly complete so far as regards the titles of papers, notwithstanding, those who have occasion to employ the *Index* frequently, know that it is far from satisfactory. What is wanted is not merely an index of titles, but an index of contents of papers, and at last it seems as if these may be obtained in some branches at least of Medicine. The conference held in London was attended by delegates from all the leading countries of the world (the Hon. Sir Donald A. Smith, representing Canada).

The following are some of the more important resolutions agreed to:

That it is desirable to compile and publish by means of some international organism, a complete Catalogue of Scientific Literature, arranged according both to subject matter and to authors' names.

That in preparing such a Catalogue regard shall, in the first instance,