

and less to a consideration of the commercial, botanical, chemical, and pharmaceutical histories, they would create a lively interest in the subject, and we should hear less complaints of these classes.

The subject of *materia medica*, which is universally regarded as the most dry and uninteresting of the whole medical curriculum, is capable of being made one of the most interesting as well as most instructive of the whole course, and to no work is the teacher more indebted for assistance in the endeavour to impart that interest to *materia medica* than to Trousseau's Therapeutics.

In these days, when all our medicines are so well prepared to our hands by the educated druggist and dealer, who devotes all his energy and time to that business, we can conceive of no greater folly than to make young men spend so much time and strength in the acquisition of knowledge for which they will have no possible use in after years, and we think it would be much more to their profit if they could be allowed to devote the time thus spent to a more thorough preparation in the more practical branches of their profession.

Trousseau's Therapeutics is a book that has long been familiar to teachers of *materia medica*, and we are glad that Wm. Wood & Co. have brought it within the reach of every student and practitioner. There is a vast amount of useful matter in it, and many valuable hints and suggestions in regard to the use of certain drugs; indeed, emanating as it does from the very prince of clinical teachers, one would expect to find it a very treasure-house of rare medical facts and suggestions—and so it is.

But while there is very much in it to commend—and we would like to see it read by every one—there is also a good deal that, read in the therapeutic light of to-day, will hardly be accepted as either very useful or very sound. When we look at it, however, as the pioneer of such modern works as Ringer, Napheys, and Fothergill, we must accord its authors a very large meed of praise for industry, originality, and painstaking research; and we thank the publishers, on behalf of the profession, for placing the work in so attractive a form in our hands.

*A Practical Handbook of Medical Chemistry, applied to Clinical Research and the Detection of Poisons.* By WILLIAM H. GREENE, M.D., Demonstrator of Chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, &c., &c. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's & Co; Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson. 1880.

This is a small but very complete work on the application of chemistry to medicine, physiology, and toxicology. It is partly founded on Bowman's work, the later edition of which was edited by Bloxam, but is much more complete in many respects, and contains the description of many new substances, tests, and processes which were not contained in the older work. Unless in exceptional cases, it does not seem to be well fitted for medical men, who have seldom the time or means to devote themselves to the accurate processes therein described; but will be found very useful to chemists who occupy themselves with the applications above mentioned, as it contains a mass of information which could be obtained only by reference to a large number of works.

The book is illustrated by numerous plates of various substances, many of which delineations are old friends, taken from Bowman and others. The writer, from long experience, can testify to their great accuracy.

The first part of the work treats of the proximate principles taking part in the animal economy, and appears to be very complete. The second part treats of the analysis of secretions, excretions, &c., such as urine, calculi, pus, saliva, bile, milk, blood, and blood-stains. We think the guaiacum test for blood-stains is more reliable than the author seems to believe, but we would apply it in a different way. The third part treats of the detection of poisons, the chapter on Arsenic being excellent. We confess, however, that we would not recommend Bloxam's electrolytic process as very handy or generally applicable. Moreover, if the quantity of arsenic present has to be determined, one of the other processes must be conjoined with it. The author wisely recommends the method of Fresenius and Babo (amended somewhat by Otto), which allows not only of the detection of the presence of the most minute traces, but also of the determination of the quantity present, which is not the case with that of Reinsch, nor directly