

great deal of the materia medica of the present day is empirical, and were every practitioner to be examined as to his knowledge of the composition, physical peculiarities, physiological effects, incomputabilities of the various drugs in daily use in dental practice, the average student could "refer back" the average dentist. It is not uncommon in these days of the free use of local anæsthetics, of whose composition the dentist knows nothing, to find the most profound ignorance as to the active absorbing power of the lymphatics and capillaries of the subcutaneous cellular tissue, upon which hypodermic medication depends. It is not uncommon to find your eminently successful "practical man" as foggy on the effect of dental medicines on the circulation, how they enter, how they act when they are there, and how they are excreted, as how the milk gets into the cocoanut or the seed into the apple. A work like that before us should shame such ignorance, and make the most self-assertative, "practical man" realize that he has not learned the first principles of his profession. Of course it is the bounden duty of an author to omit no important drug which has been brought before the profession. Yet, we venture to believe that the best results in practice are obtained, not by continual experimenting with the commercial fads of the pharmacist, but by confining the practice, as much as possible, to a few, and those the agents which experience has proved to be most successful. We can only commend Dr. Gorgas' work as full of information and suggestion.

*Operative Technics.* By Prof. T. E. WEEKS, Dental Department, Minnesota University. H. D. Justi & Co., Chicago. \$2.00. Cloth.

This instructive little work is an outcome of the suggestions and labors of our eminent confrere, Dr. G. V. Black, whose valuable book on the Anatomy of the Human Teeth is now in its third edition. Prof. Weeks, assisted by Dr. Cuttell, has produced a volume that will be of great service to students and teachers, in a branch that cannot possibly be omitted from a thorough dental curriculum.

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