

A MANUAL OF MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACOLOGY. Comprising all organic and inorganic drugs which are and have been official in the United States Pharmacopœia, together with important allied species and useful synthetics. For students of medicine, druggists, pharmacists, and physicians. By David M. R. Culbreth, M.D., Professor of Botany, Materia Medica, and Pharmacognosy in the Maryland College of Pharmacy, Baltimore. In one handsome octavo volume of 812 pages, with 445 illustrations. Cloth, \$4 75. Lea Brothers & Co., Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1896.

The above work is most comprehensive in its scope, and written in an easy and concise style. It is essentially a student's book, and the arrangement makes it superior to any of the existing materia medicas known to the writer. There is no unnecessary waste of time in describing drugs—the main points are immediately mentioned, briefly, but thoroughly. The information accompanying each drug embraces its genus, habitat, synonyms—English, French, and German—description, constituents, preparations, and properties. The arrangement of the drug descriptions is made so as to associate “as nearly together as possible those substances, organic and inorganic, which have a common or allied origin, allowing those related next in order to follow in regular sequence.” The metric system is omitted from the text, and the apothecaries system adhered to. This is in accordance with the common usage of to-day in this country, and prevents the necessity of figuring doses and what-not back to the system in vogue. The metric system will one day be adopted; then it will be time to utilize it in constructing our books.

The illustrations are a great credit to the work, and of undoubted value in aiding the text. Botany can be more easily studied from well-illustrated textbooks than from those whose illustrations are infrequent and not true to nature. Their profusion is remarkable, nearly every plant described being accompanied with one or more illustrations.

Part I. of the work embraces 557 pages and twelve tables of recapitulation, which will be found of great aid to the student in reviewing his work before examination. In these tables the natural order, botanic source, official part, habitat, etc., etc., are so clearly tabulated that reviewing is made easy, and yet they could not be utilized for examination purposes without a knowledge of the work from deeper reading.

Part II., embracing thirty pages and recapitulation table, deals with drugs derived from the animal kingdom.

Part III., inorganic drugs from the mineral kingdom.

Part IV. is devoted to organic carbon compounds, and considered under two heads: The fatty and aromatic series.

The synthetic remedies are treated of in Part V. The formulæ are graphically shown where one atom or a group of atoms are exchanged for others, and different substances invariably produced. These compounds are of so universal use at the present time that the addition of this part to the work makes it an exceedingly valuable one.

The appendix embraces such useful information as poisons: treatment and antidotes; a table showing the number of drops in a fluid drachm of various liquids; a table of popular medical abbreviation; Latin used in prescribing and directing, the whole concluding with a voluminous index.

The work will, undoubtedly, be adopted freely as a text-book, and the author should be congratulated on producing a work which so exhaustively deals with the subject in hand. The publishers have, as usual, spared no pains in presenting a well-printed and bound volume.

FOOD IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. By L. Burney Yeo, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Therapeutics in King's College, London. New (2nd) edition. In one 22mo. volume of 592 pages, with 4 engravings. Cloth, \$2.50. Lea Brothers & Co., Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1896.