

the names of the prescribers, among whom are included many eminent authorities.

To the directions following each prescription are often added special indications of the precise form or stage of the disease for which they are indicated, or of the age of the patient, &c., for which they are suitable. Few, if any, diseases or drugs of importance are omitted.

An appendix contains concise notes upon the subjects mentioned above, and being so quickly and conveniently available will be found of frequent use.

We recommend this little book to the busy practitioner and to all who have found a difficulty in putting into concrete prescriptions the general knowledge they have gathered of the therapeutic value of many new and useful drugs.

Though we must not be understood to encourage a lethargic inability to diagnose and treat a case without a reference to a hand-book.

Notes and Comments.

THE *Canadian Practitioner* thinks it unjust to compel the students to attend the same course of didactic lectures twice. Amen.—*American Lancet*. Amen.—M. M. NEWS.

THE commissioners appointed by the Belgium Academy of Medicine, have come to the conclusion that saccharin cannot be considered a substitute for sugar in aliments.

ELSEWHERE will be found an announcement of the Halifax Infirmary. Such an institution meets a frequent want. On the one hand, it enables patients to undergo surgical treatment with the desirable accompaniment of careful and experienced nursing, and in the possession of various advantages lacking in a private house.

On the other hand, doctors who have not at hand proper facilities for employing serious operative procedures will appreciate their ability to recommend their patients to such an institution. The names of the gentlemen on the staff may be considered a guarantee that the institution will be conducted on strictly professional and scientific principles.

THE Commissioners have decided to build a new wing to the St. John Hospital, applications for admission being frequently more numerous than the beds at their disposal. This has been more especially the case with regard to patients requiring private rooms. It is expected that in the new building increased facilities will be given for cases requiring abdominal section, and others in which it is essential that perfect asepticism should be maintained.

WE do not know of any drug of the many used for chronic bronchitis, bronchial catarrh and kindred conditions, that has its efficiency vouched for more strongly than Terebene. Brought into prominence by Dr. William Murrell, of London, who, after carefully testing, came to *rely* upon its special curative powers in the class of cases mentioned, it still retains the confidence and receives the recommendation of that experienced Therapeutist.

The value of the drug is attested by many eminent physicians and as the result of the now prolonged experience of capable men Terebene is removed from the catalogue of "new remedies," and deserves its place on the list of reliable drugs. It does not appear to have been used very commonly in this country, but we have no doubt that it will win its way into frequent use.

Terebene is a powerful expectorant and is antiseptic. It exerts a curative influence on the bronchial catarrh; it relieves dyspnoea; it purifies and lessens the discharge in bronchorrhea; and may be used with benefit in most chronic catarrhal

conditions of the mucous membranes, but especially of the bronchial. In the *New York Medical Journal*, Dr. Suckling is quoted as reporting a hundred cases in the Birmingham Workhouse Infirmary, (ninety-four of chronic bronchitis, and six of phthisis) treated by Terebene. Seventy-two per cent. of all the cases were relieved, many of them greatly so. Dr. Suckling gave five drop doses every four hours, increasing in a couple of days to ten drops. These figures are a fair representation of the value of Terebene. Many series of cases equally favourable in their results might be collected.

Most of the above patients were well advanced in years. This being kept in view, the age of the patients and the peculiarly intractable nature of the conventional "winter cough" of middle aged and elderly people, the conclusion is justified that Terebene merits that its powers should be more commonly taken advantage of.

Selections.

SULFONAL.

DR. MATHES, in the "Centralblatt für Clinische Medicin," says of this drug:—He has administered sulfonal in cases of tuberculosis and cardiac disease, in meningitis, in alcoholic delirium, anaemia, infectious fevers, cirrhosis, tabes dorsalis, neuralgia, &c. In short, he has tried the fashionable remedy in all cases which came under his notice without distinction. This way of proceeding need not be condemned, for it has shown the harmlessness of sulfonal, in certain doses, in all the cases experimented upon. It is worth knowing for example, that cases of cardiac disorder stand without inconvenience the same quantity of the drug as the cases of Phthisis; one cannot say as much of chloral. There follows from such statistics the general deduction, that sulfonal has complete hypnotic effect in 72 per cent. of all cases; an incomplete effect in 9.25 per cent., and is inefficacious in 18 per cent.; that in 19 per cent. it produces accessory manifestations; finally, that in most cases it acts better the second night than the first, which fact, if confirmed, shows a marked superiority over morphine and the derivatives of opium in general.

In what do the accessory manifestations consist? Simply in buzzing of the ears, slight headache, deafness, general fatigue, and exceptionally in vomiting. But on the other hand, we do not observe cardiac or respiratory disorders or modifications of the appetite or digestion. It is, we see, almost the perfection of an hypnotic, if we take account of the fact that these phenomena are very rare.

The following are the author's conclusions:—

I.—Sulfonal is a useful hypnotic, although it may not be always efficacious.

II.—It has the advantage over other hypnotic agents, of possessing neither odor nor taste, of exercising no influence over the essential vital organs.

III.—It causes no bad effects, except in a very small number of cases, and in these the worst it does is generally insignificant.

IV.—The dose is variable, and depends upon the susceptibility of the individual. Most generally one gram. (about gr. xv.) is sufficient to produce sleep, without accessory manifestations. When those appear it is only necessary to diminish the dose.

V.—On account of the slowness of the action of the medicine it is well to administer it at least an hour before going to bed.