

A Text-Book of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacology. By George Franklin Butler, Ph.G., M.D., Prof. Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department of the University of Illinois; Professor of General Medicine and Diseases of the Digestive System, Chicago Clinical School; Attending Physician Cooke's County Hospital, etc. Second edition revised. W. B. Saunders, 925 Walnut street, Philadelphia. Price, cloth, \$4.00; sheep or half morocco, \$5.00. Canadian agents, J. A. Carveth & Co., Toronto, Ont.

This is an up to-date text book of some 860 pages, containing the most recent representation of all that is usually taught in a course on Materia Medica and Therapeutics. We still see that objectionable word Pharmacology in use, with a slightly modified definition as to what it means. Some other word should be coined to indicate the physiological action of drugs on the system. A very useful chapter on the untoward effects of drugs is given, and a lengthy table of the untoward effects of various drugs on lungs and heart, brain and cord, eye, ear and throat, skin and liver, kidneys and bladder. The subject of weights and measures is fully considered. Then a list of the various pharmaceutical preparations, extractions, preparations, and solid mixtures for internal use; and the various preparations for external use. The various remedies are considered in groups according to their physiological and therapeutic action. Under Organotherapy is an account of the action and uses of spermini hydrochloras, thyroid extract, and nuclein as well as bone marrow, brain, pancreas, and other extracts. While some of these are powerful remedies, others are of doubtful effect, but the field is one in which therapeutics may achieve victories and where much is yet to be done. The suggestion to use nuclein, which increases the leucocytes within a few hours in typhoid fever, when leucytoses is defective, is a reasonable one. In the second division the word "specific" is made to do duty for that indefinite one, "alterative," which is an improvement, but is still defined as a remedy which acts in some unknown way, acting on the disease itself rather than on symptoms, and only give curative effects when they remove the cause of the disease. If they produce their characteristic poisonous action on the system, it is an indication that they they are contra-indicated, or have been given for too long a time. Mercury, arsenic and iodine are types. At the conclusion of the consideration of remedies, a very complete and useful chapter is given on prescriptions and the method of writing them, so that their effect will be *curare cito tuto et jucunde*, is minutely pointed out. A list of incompatibilities is given; how to estimate the amounts in a prescription, metric equivalents, number of drops in a fluid dram of various remedies. The portion on the language and grammatical construction of prescriptions is worth close study, and we agree with the author that, no matter how able a diagnostician, pathologist, or bacteriologist the young graduate may be, if some of his first prescriptions be illegible, poor Latin, or a hopelessly incompatible mixture, the druggist will measure him accordingly, and his judgment may not rest with him, but go forth and prove a drawback to his success, difficult to overcome.