

subjects. This being so the colleges must follow suit and in certain years almost all the students' time and energies are spent in the didactic class room.

We would like to see one course of *didactic* lectures recognized as sufficient in Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica, Chemistry, Midwifery, and Surgery. In Anatomy there should be required, in addition to dissecting, a course of Anatomical Demonstrations, and this might be accepted as an alternative for a second didactic course.

One course each of Physiology, Materia Medica, and Chemistry we consider sufficient if supplemented by proper Histological, Pharmacal, and practical classes.

One course of Midwifery and Gynecology is sufficient, but should be supplemented by more practical work than at present, so that twelve or twenty confinement cases (instead of six,) together with evidence of some practical gynecological experience might be accepted as an alternative for a second didactic course.

In surgery more practical work should be enforced. A course in operative surgery, the use of splints, &c., might properly be accepted instead of a second didactic course.

The Provincial Boards must lead the way in this matter; then the colleges can follow.

We think few having a knowledge of both systems would favour the American duplicate system with thereby necessarily limited practical work as compared with the British system under which a student can keep up with his classes in his reading as he goes on and at the same time be instructed in a very complete series of practical classes and practical clinical work.

The result of the non-requirement of the second courses will be that the time saved therefrom will enable the practical element of medical teaching to be much more developed to the undoubted advantage of both practitioner and patient.

ATENTION is drawn in our correspondence columns to the pursuance of an apparently arbitrary course on the part of the Department of Marine in cutting down medical accounts which contains a strictly fair valuation of services rendered. Such action is annoying, and when repeated is certainly an injustice.

The Minister of Marine is, we take it, the responsible man for his department, even for measures adopted by his Deputy Minister, whom our correspondent designates as immediately responsible in the precise instance named.

The government should obviously not shrink from paying according to a scale of charges which itself sanctions as legitimate and fair.

And for the government, through its officials, to dictate as it were, before hand, the precise amount of medical attention to be allowed and paid for in the case of any invalids would be to assume a position which we cannot imagine a responsible minister would, after enlightenment, wish or attempt to maintain.

We believe that a written statement of the hitherto grievances, signed by a few medical men and submitted to the responsible head of the department through the medium, it might be, of a parliamentary representative, would lead to a more equitable consideration of accounts for medical services.

Reviews and Book Notices.

HAND-BOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY, AND THERAPEUTICS.—Compiled for the use of Students preparing for examination. By Cuthbert Bowen, M.D., B.A., Editor of Notes on Practice. F. A. Davis, Publisher, Philadelphia and London, 1889.

Dr. Bowen has succeeded in making an excellent compilation of the essential facts of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. The form of question-and-answer book has been adopted for bringing out points. This has been in the main very well done. The preliminary sections of the book are excellent, particularly that on prescription writing, which is not dwelt on fully in any of the recognized text books. Woods' classification has been adopted, and nearly all the recently introduced drugs are referred to.

The work is designed to supply the needs of students preparing for examination, and would be of considerable service to busy practitioners desirous of reviewing their knowledge of the subject. Under forms of administration a large selection of combinations devised by recent authorities are given.

THE INTERNATIONAL POCKET MEDICAL FORMULARY.—With an appendix containing Posological Table; Formulæ for Inhalations, Suppositories, Nasal Douches, Eye-Washes and Gargles, Hypodermic Formulæ, Table of Hypodermic Medication, Use of Thermometer, Poisons and their antidotes, Post Mortem and Medico Legal Examinations, Artificial Respiration, Ligation of Arteries, Obstetrical Table, Urine Analysis, &c., &c. By C. Sumner Witherstine, M. S., M. D. Philadelphia; F. A. Davis, (price \$2.00.)

"The want of the present is crystallized knowledge. Names and doses of remedies, old and new, are in themselves insufficient. The busy practitioner, the recent graduate, and the earnest student must needs know how best to exhibit them, and how and when to give them. To this end the compiler presents the newer remedies in combination, with a large number of the older 'time tried' formulæ of the best known practitioners at home and abroad."

We are quite ready to admit the 'point' of the above quotation from the introduction to this first-rate pocket book. It is a fact that many of the really valuable newer remedies are not used because of an unfamiliarity with a precise and proper mode of prescribing them. Did it contain nothing else the prescribed combinations, (embracing the newer as well as older drugs,) for all the more important diseased conditions, (alphabetically arranged,) would make the Formulary a practically valuable addition to the table or the pocket.

No less than 1658 Formulæ are given, all accompanied by