

void that has been occasioned by the introduction of so many new remedies to the notice of the profession, and we can safely recommend it to all who desire information of the most recent date.

In the rapid progress of modern research, few subjects have of late years received greater accessions of facts than the group of sciences connected with *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics. The new resources thus placed at the command of the pharmacist and physician have seemed to the authors to justify an attempt to make, from the advanced standpoint of the present day, a concise but complete statement of all that is of practical importance to both professions—a digest in which that which is old and that which is new shall be so brought together as to give to the reader, within the most moderate practicable compass, all the details in pharmacology, pharmacy, and therapeutics which he is likely to need in his daily avocations. In the almost infinite accumulation of material, this has required a careful and conscientious sifting to discard that which is obsolete, untrustworthy, or comparatively trivial, without impairing the practical completeness of the work. That they have wholly accomplished their object, the authors do not venture to claim; but they can say that years of constant labor have been devoted to the task of producing a work to which the enquirer may refer with the certainty of finding every thing which experience has stored up as worthy of confidence in the subjects embraced within its scope.

SPANISH QUICKSILVER—To secure and repay a loan of forty-two millions of piccettes, equal to \$8,500,000, subscribed to in 1870 by the English banking house of Rothschilds, and payable in thirty annuities of \$750,000, the Spanish Government granted to it the monopoly of the sale of the product of the quicksilver mines of Almaden, situated in the province of La Mancha. The Spanish Government pledged itself to deliver yearly at least 32,000 flasks of quicksilver, each holding 75 Spanish pounds, equal to 76½ pounds avoirdupois. All the quicksilver bottled is taken at Almaden by the Rothschilds, and the administration is relieved of all care and further expense of transportation and sale, transactions occasionally difficult. The London market is almost entirely supplied by the Spanish mine, a little also going there from the mine of Idria, owned and worked by the Government of Austria. Although quicksilver is an article that is stowed in small compass, it is not depreciated by age, nor do its ores occur in large quantities except in Spain, Austria, and California, yet its price has shown great fluctuations during the past fifteen years. The many quicksilver mines of California are being rapidly extended in a vain effort to compete with the two richest mines owned by the Spanish and Austrian Governments. The production of the State of California in 1878 was 63 480 flasks

A CHEAP DISINFECTANT AND DEODORIZER.—Dissolve a drachm of lead nitrate in a *paiful*, and a drachm of common salt in a *jugful* of soft water, and mix the two solutions. Soft water is essential, on account of preventing the formation of an insoluble carbonate of lime and lead. Dip rags into the solution, and hang them up in the offensive room, or pour some of the mixture upon excrements, or down the privies or sinks. This is of ordinary strength, but the solution may be made stronger if desired. If carb. lead and lime form, pour off the clear liquid and use none of the sediment.—*Physician and Pharmacist.*

“‘Soy’ has always been a mystery to me, as I fancy it has been to most other people who have dealt in or used it. I was, therefore, anxious to see a soy factory, and taking a boat one day we proceeded two or three miles up the river to where one was in operation. I found that the principal ingredient or base is a white bean known as ‘paktoh,’ which, so far as I could judge, is very like any other small white bean. These are boiled, heavily salted, and put into big earthen jars, holding, perhaps, half a barrel each, where they are allowed to remain for about ten days, during which period fermentation takes place. They are then mashed up with a species of olive, which is picked and boiled, and this mixture is placed into neat cloth bags, into which water is poured and allowed to percolate. The liquid is then taken out, placed in clean jars, and thickened with a heavy-bodied Chinese molasses, and this is soy.”

SOUND, HEAT, AND LIGHT EXPLAINED BY THE VIBRATORY THEORY.—In the middle of a large darkened room let us suppose a rod set in vibration and connected with a contrivance for continually augmenting the speed of its vibrations. We enter the room at the moment when the rod is vibrating four times in a second. Neither eye nor ear tells us of the presence of the rod, only the hand, which feels the strokes when brought within their reach. The vibrations become more rapid, till, when they reach the number of thirty-two in a second, a deep hum strikes our ear. The tone rises continually in pitch, and passes through all the intervening grades up to the highest, the shrillest notes; then all sinks again into former grave-like silence. While full of astonishment at what we have heard, we feel suddenly (by the increased velocity of the vibrating rod) an agreeable warmth, as from a fire, diffusing itself from the spot whence the sound had proceeded. Still all is dark. The vibrations increase in rapidity, and a faint-red light begins to glimmer; it gradually brightens till the rod assumes a vivid-red glow, then it turns to yellow, and changes through the whole range of colors up to violet, when all is again swallowed up in night. Thus nature speaks to the different senses in succession; at first a gentle word, audible only in immediate proximity, then a