

*Manual of the Medicinal Preparations of Iron, including their Preparation, Chemistry, Physiological Action and Therapeutical Use ; with an Appendix containing the Iron Preparations of the British Pharmacopœia.* By HARRY NAPIER DEAPER, F.C.S. Dublin : Fannin & Co. 1864.

This volume consists of 130 pages, and contains the mode of preparation and use of all the officinal and unofficinal preparations of iron. To the practitioner in the country, who prepares many of his own remedies, a work like this would be of great value. The author, in his preface, says :

"The object which I have endeavored to attain in the following pages may be explained in very few words. Of late years it has become customary to multiply to a perplexing extent the compounds of the inorganic bodies employed in medicine. It is no part of my intention to criticise this feature of modern pharmacy, or to advance any opinion of my own as to the desirability of a system which, while it has certainly led to the introduction of some very elegant and efficient preparations, has at the same time imposed upon the prescriber the troublesome task of choosing between a great variety of forms of the same remedy, and has rendered it imperative upon the pharmacist to keep prepared a collection of salts, solutions, syrups, *et hoc genus omne*, which are in many instances very perishable.

"There is perhaps no remedy to which these remarks more forcibly apply than to the metal iron. Of repute in the treatment of certain diseased conditions from almost the earliest period from which history hands us down any record of medicine, it has continued to acquire popularity, until in our own time we find it holding among therapeutic agents a position not second to that of any other substance. This is without doubt due to the circumstance that iron is one of the few remedies, the action of which is to a certain degree understood, and which, on scientific principles, combats abnormal conditions which can be traced to their origin.

"The plan of arrangement adopted is as follows. The salts are placed in alphabetical order as being the most convenient for reference. Each compound is treated of under distinct heads. Firstly, its preparation is detailed, the best process being selected, or in some cases, as in that of *Reduced Iron*, all the published processes are introduced ; secondly, its physical characters ; thirdly, its chemistry ; fourthly, its contaminations and the tests by which their presence may be determined ; fifthly, its physiological action and therapeutical use ; and sixthly, the dose in which it may be given. Lastly, formulæ of pills, syrups, and other preparations into which the compound enters, are added."