

TRAITÉ PRATIQUE DE MATIÈRE MÉDICALE DE THÉRAPEUTIQUE ET DE TOXICOLOGIE. Par H. E. Desrosiers, M. D., Professeur de Thérapeutique à l'Université Laval, Professeur de Matière Médicale au Collège de Pharmacie de Montréal, Médecin de l'Hôpital Notre Dame. Large Octavo volume of 800 pages. Price, cloth, \$5.00; full leather, \$6.00. Montréal: J. M. Valois, Libraire-éditeur, 1626 Rue Notre-Dame, 1892.

The treatise on *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics which our esteemed confrere Dr. Desrosiers has just published and which consists of his lectures in the Medical Faculty of Laval University, Montreal, delivered between 1880 and 1891, has been expected for some time. When the work was nearly ready for printing a fire broke out in the publishing house and destroyed all the plates. Neither this nor many other difficulties were sufficient to make the author or publisher lose courage for they speedily set to work again and now the result is before us. It is the first work of the kind ever published in Canada and we are proud to say that it is one which any country might be proud of. In fact this work of Dr. Desrosiers and that of Dr. Wesley Mills on physiology will place Canadians, as far as they have gone, in the front rank of medical authors. Dr. Desrosiers' treatise is divided into five distinct parts. In his preliminary remarks he has studied absorption, the action and elimination of drugs in general, those which act similarly and dissimilarly, the mode of administration and dose. The study of these general principles we have always contended were necessary for the comprehension of their application to each drug in particular. Then comes classification based both on the physiological action and the therapeutic effects, a drug being placed for instance in the category of depresso-motors, not only because it possesses a depresso motor action, but also because it is employed in the treatment of diseases characterized by excito motor power, such as convulsions and spasmodic affections. Then comes the study of *Remedies* in the order of this classification. In this part the practitioner and student are shown the action and the mode of action of the different classes and sub-divisions, those which affect the nervous system, hypnotics, anaesthetics, those which affect the circulation. This part will prove of great utility to students in helping them to study treatment as a whole and enabling them to undertake with comparative ease the study of remedies in particular. As for the latter by placing them in their alphabetical order the author has saved the readers the annoyance of hunting all through the work in order to learn all there is to be known about any particular drug. The chapter on each drug is complete in itself. We are glad to see that the author has left out all the pure pharmacology, devoting all his space to the action of the drugs on the organism and their application to the treatment of diseases. In this section the reader will find all the new remedies such as antipyrin, antifebrine, aristol, spermine, phenacetine, microcidine, ural, analgine, etc., while the good old standbys mercury, arsenic, and iron have not been forgotten. The doses are given in ounces and grains as well as in grammes, the standard being that of the British pharmacopœia. A useful chapter on toxicology treats of all the poisonous drugs and the management of cases of poisoning by them. The last part of the work is devoted to applied therapeutics, comprising an alphabetical list of 255 diseases or important symptoms with their appropriate treatment. This will be of the

greatest value to the physician who often requires a speedy means of refreshing his memory in the presence of an urgent case. By a very simple arrangement of the printing one can see at a glance whether any given drug is of greater or lesser importance, all the drugs of recognized value being printed in large type while those of lesser or doubtful value are printed much smaller. We might take this opportunity of saying that the paper and printing are equal to the best of any American or European work. Taking it altogether Dr. Desrosiers' book is one that every Canadian physician or student who has the good fortune to understand French should at once procure, as the edition is limited and already a large number have been sold.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

VINOLIA SOAP.—We have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of a sample of this soap which we have tried and found very satisfactory. It is pleasantly scented and being superfatted so as to contain no free alkali it is beneficial instead of injurious to the skin, as are many other soaps. The relation of impure soap to skin diseases is not generally known, but any one desiring information on this subject can obtain it on application to the proprietors, Messrs. Blondeau & Co., corner Watts and Greenwich Streets, New York.

### AMERICANS IN THE RIVIERA.

The *British Medical Journal* of Dec. 5th, 1891, says:—"Dr. Wendt has been commissioned to visit the Riviera and the health resorts of the south of France in order to study and to report on the healthy conditions and the sanitary (or insanitary) arrangements, municipal and domestic, of the towns and hotels at such places as Cannes, Nice, Pau, Hyeres, Mentone, Monaco, San Remo, Alasio, Bordighera, Florence, and Naples. He will find much to exercise his industry and acumen—much to blame, something to encourage, and many causes for warning to his countrymen. American visitors to the Continent are particularly liable to typhoid—of which the frequently recurring and sad examples are probably the main cause of this journalistic tour of inspection. Part of this special liability probably arises from their habit of drinking iced water. So long as, following the advice of Dr. Herman Weber, they confine themselves to natural mineral waters of recognized purity, they are safe. But these are not always at hand, and all do not yet understand that icing or aerating polluted water detracts nothing from its risks, and that even ice itself made from impure water is a source of danger. Where only "local drinking water" is to be had in the Riviera or anywhere on the Continent of Europe, it should always be first boiled and then filtered, as Dr. Gowers advises.