

William Gardner. D. Van Nostrand Company, 8 Warren St., New York City, publishers. Price \$8.00.

This dictionary contains approximately 17,000 definitions and cross-references—since the first edition 2700 definitions have been added. Of necessity the definitions are brief and further information must be sought elsewhere. It serves a very useful purpose for pharmacist, chemist, druggist, retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer. Several examples will probably show the value of the dictionary, rather unusual terms having been selected.

"Abus Ha Heree. An inferior kind of Asafetida in the Bombay market. It is derived from *Ferula alliacea*.

"A. B. C. Liniment. Compound liniment of aconite (*Linimentum aconiti compositum* B. P. C.).

"Abisol. A 40 per cent solution of sodium hydrogen sulphite, NaHSO_2 . A disinfectant and preservative.

"Izal. A distillate from coke residues. It is a proprietary disinfectant.

"Etard's Reagent. Anhydrous chromium oxychloride, an oxidizing agent.

"Salol Camphor. A mixture of 3 parts of salol and 2 parts of camphor. An antiseptic for boils."

It is difficult to review a dictionary; examples answer the purpose better. It should be stated that many of the terms have British application; however, an unfamiliar term is the one most difficult to find and, hence, there is value in that very fact. Considering that sometimes the finding of a name or definition has considerable value to the searcher it is reasonable to assume that this book will repay the purchaser.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics, including Pharmacy and Pharmacology. By Reynold Webb Wilcox, M.A., M.D., L.L., D.C.L. Eleventh edition. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price \$5.00.

Prior editions of this work have been reviewed in these columns. This edition has been revised in accordance with U. S. Pharmacopœia X; because the volume was completed before the appearance of the National Formulary V, the drugs and preparations of that Standard are not discussed. Quite naturally the inclusion would, to that extent, have an added value.

The text is presented in two general divisions—"Materia Medica and Pharmacy" and "Pharmacology and Therapeutics." In the former

attention is given to pharmaceutical processes, preparations, dosage and their prescribing. The therapeutic agents are grouped according to the chemical or physiological divisions to which they belong. The classification of the second division is in accordance with the particular physiological system upon which the various agents principally act and each agent is fully considered in relation to its pharmacological action and therapeutic uses. In these presentations an effort has been made to embody the latest views of authorities and, in greater detail, the results in actual practice by the author, who also acknowledges the efficient assistance of Dr. Henry Hubbard Pelton in the revision of this work.

About 25 pages of the book are given over to a classification and description of preparations, prescription-writing and Latin terms more or less frequently employed; also dosage and equivalents in weights and measures. In an appendix the organic drugs are listed according to their natural orders. While the text is based on an alphabetical arrangement of the drugs the index may be consulted for the diseases in which they are employed. Various methods of administration and application are fully described. The organic extracts, antitoxins and vaccines are given consideration, but nothing is said about insulin. Perhaps the latter does not fit in with the general scheme of the work; however, the statement is made in the preface that "this volume offers to the medical student and to the practitioner, it is believed, a very complete presentation of the resources at our command (*Materia Medica*), how they act (*Pharmacology*), and, finally, how to employ them (*Therapeutics*)."

This revision of "Wilcox" is fully up to the standard of excellence which has contributed to the popularity of previous editions.

The Book of Prescriptions. By E. W. Lucas, C.B.E. and H. B. Stevens, O.B.E. Eleventh edition. Pp. +382. Price \$4.00. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1926.

As stated, this is the eleventh edition of this well- and favorably known book of which 35,000 copies have been printed; all of this speaks for its popularity. The book has been thoroughly revised and is a most useful reference for the prescriptionist as well as practitioner of medicine.

The alphabetical arrangement according to the active constituents serves the doctor best, and with the general index is just as convenient for the pharmacist. While prepared, pri-

marily, for British physicians and pharmacists, it is adaptable by those of the United States.

That the revision is up-to-date is indicated by prescriptions containing more recent remedies, for example: Benzoyl derivatives, organic silver compounds, insulin, those suggested for colloidal therapy, urea derivatives, organo therapy, etc.

The index of diseases and classified remedies has been thoroughly revised. A table of approximate equivalents in terms of the Imperial and Metric Systems is included; the equivalents of the American systems would have added to that extent to value of the book for this country. As a reference, the *Book of Prescriptions* frequently will be of valuable assistance to the dispenser.

Therapeutics, Materia Medica and Pharmacy. The special therapeutics of diseases and symptoms, the physiological and therapeutical actions of drugs, the modern materia medica, official and practical pharmacy, prescription writing, and antidotal and antagonistic treatment of poisoning. By Samuel O. L. Potter, A.M., M.D. Fourteenth edition, revised by R. J. E. Scott, M.A., B.C.L., M.D. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Co. About 1000 pp. Price \$8.50.

Former editions of this well- and favorably-known work have been reviewed in these columns; it might be sufficient to say that the present revision has brought it up-to-date, because the general plan of former editions has been followed; much new matter has been added, considerable revision and some deletions are noted in Part I—"Materia Medica and Therapeutics," and Part III—"Special Therapeutics." In these sections of the book the pharmacist is interested because of the discussions relative to therapeutic action and value of the Materia Medica, constituents, composition, dosage, uses, etc. The information, though concisely given, covers nearly 500 pages. Part III has about 250 pp.; the arrangement, as in Part I, is alphabetical; the application of remedial agents is carefully considered and about 20 pp. are given to treatment of poisoning, antidotes, antagonists, etc.

Part II has greater interest for pharmacists, being devoted to pharmacy and prescription-writing; pharmaceutical processes, dispensing, prescription practice, problems and methods involved in the latter as well as in pharmaceutical manufacture are well presented. While these chapters are not as comprehensive as those in exclusive treatises on pharmacy,

the volume has a value for the pharmacist because it includes the subjects previously mentioned.

Laws and regulations applying to the prescribing and dispensing of narcotics and alcoholics are included; a number of pages are given to Latin in connection with terms frequently used and their application in prescription-writing.

The volume also contains a number of convenient and useful tables of thermometric equivalents, weights, measures, percentage solutions, and doses. In every respect this revision compares favorably with former editions.

Potter's Compend of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Prescription Writing. Revised by A. D. Bush, B.S., M.D. Ninth Edition, 262 pages. P. Blakiston's Son and Company, Philadelphia. Price \$2.00.

The revision conforms with U. S. Pharmacopœia X. The Materia Medica is considered according to the following grouping: Restoratives, agents promoting waste, alteratives, astringents, cerebral depressants, cerebral excitants, motor depressants, motor excitants, antizymotics and antipyretics, specifics, evacuants, topical agents. The Compend concludes with a chapter on Latin and Prescription-Writing. The purpose of the well-known compend is to furnish a concise résumé of the relatively more important data of the subjects under consideration. This volume would have been enhanced in value for those who use it most, if the reviser had included the preparations of the National Formulary V. With that exception this volume meets the purpose indicated by the publisher.

Gould and Pyle Pocket Cyclopedia of Medicine and Surgery. Third edition, revised and edited by R. J. E. Scott, M.A., B.C.L., M.D., New York. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price \$2.50; with thumb index, \$3.00.

The publisher's announcement states that "This compact Pocket Medical Cyclopedia" was prepared based originally upon the large "Cyclopedia of Medicine," by Drs. Gould and Pyle. This, like the former edition, has been edited by Dr. R. J. E. Scott of New York City, who brings to the revision the results of a wide medical and literary experience. The success of the former printings amply justifies its publication; it has had a large circulation at home and in many parts of the world, so