

It would seem, however, that the clearness of even the best medical writings must always be obscured by the tinge of mediaeval scholasticism. To Latinize seems to be the besetting weakness of the medical profession. Thus it happens that even in this excellent and thoroughly modern book we find yellow mercuric oxide referred to as "hydrargyrum oxydatum flavum via humida paratum". It is very doubtful if these antiquated terms really serve any useful purpose. It is the opinion of the writer that they tend rather to befog and mystify the mind of the student and at best they only tend to preserve the traditions of an age that was altogether unscientific in its mode of thought.

In its entirety, however, the book is a valuable contribution, and the translator certainly deserves the thanks of American students for putting into their hands so excellent a guide to laboratory work in physiological chemistry.

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DIRECTIONS FOR LABORATORY WORK IN PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY. By HOLMES C. JACKSON, PH.D. Second Edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1903. pp. vi + 148. Price, \$1.25.

The first portions of the book deal with the carbohydrates, fats, proteids and other substances occurring in the animal organism. This is followed by directions for laboratory work on muscular and nervous tissue, digestive processes, milk, blood and bile, and about one-third of the book is devoted to the examination of urine and urinary analysis. One good feature of the book is that in connection with the laboratory work direct questions are asked, the correct answering of which by the student will greatly assist in his proper comprehension of the subject under consideration. It seems to be very difficult for any writer on chemical subjects nowadays to escape the wiles and allurements of physical chemistry. So we find in the work before us that the author has explained the acidity of the urine to medical students as "attributable to the presence of dissociated hydrogen ions,"—whatever these may be, and has pointed out the value of cryoscopic and conductivity methods in urinary analysis. In our humble opinion it will be a long time before the average student in the great majority of American medical schools has any proper appreciation of the ion, much less the "dissociated ion," and for him Δ will doubtless remain somewhat of an enigma for some time to come.

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