

THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN THE UNITED STATES. A Collection of Facts and Documents Relating to the History of Medical Science in This Country, from the Earliest English Colonization to the Year 1800. With a Supplemental Chapter on the Discovery of Anesthesia. By Francis Randolph Packard, M.D. Illustrated. Cloth. Pp. 542. Price, \$4.00 net. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1901.

While there have been many "bits" of medical history published heretofore, some complete as they affected one colony, or one phase, this we believe is the first to appear thoroughly covering all the colonies and all that relates to the subject. The first chapter is general in its character, giving an insight into the conditions existing in the early days when the physician was a combination of preacher and doctor, if not a combination of half a dozen callings. This is the most interesting part of the book, at least to those who love the curious. The author has evidently ransacked every library and searched every book that could possibly throw light on those who founded the profession of medicine in the United States.

Much that is curious, as well as instructive in many ways, is recorded in this part. The following quaint ending to a manuscript on "Receipts to Cure Various Disorders," sent over from London in 1643, by a Dr. Ed. Stafford, is worth quoting: "*Nota bene.* No man can with a good conscience take a fee or a reward before ye partie receive benefit apparent; and then he is not to demand anything but what God shall putt into the head of the partie to give him. And he is not to refuse anything that shall be so given him, for it comes from God. A man is not to neglect that partie, to whom he hath once administered, but to visit him at least once a day, and to medle with no more than he can well attend. In so doing he shall discharge a good conscience before God and man." Certainly this is good advice. But the following notice, which appeared in the *Boston Evening Post and the General Advertiser*, November, 1781, would be more approved to-day: "The physicians of the town of Boston hereby inform the public, that, in consideration of the great fatigue and inevitable injury to their constitution, in the practice of midwifery, as well as the necessary interruption of the other branches of their profession, they shall, for the future, expect that in calls of this kind, the fee be immediately discharged."

Two chapters are taken up with a description of the epidemics which occurred previous to 1800. The sufferings of those early pioneers are graphically described and the sacrifices made by the physicians of that time, as told here, should make the commercially-inclined modern physician blush. Epidemics were common in those days, smallpox especially being often prevalent and generally terribly fatal. The account of the inoculation against this disease, and of the application of vaccination and the excellent results obtained, should be read by those who think they think that vaccination is not one of the greatest discoveries of the ages, and that it has not proved one of the greatest blessings that medical men have given to humanity.

An account of medical education before the formation of medical schools occupies one chapter, and in another is given a history of the early medical colleges. The medical profession in the War for Independence, the earliest hospitals, medical societies and medical legislation in the colonies are among the subjects thoroughly treated. A chapter is devoted to anesthesia, but why we can not imagine. The author has otherwise confined himself to events preceding the opening of the nineteenth century.

Too much praise can not be bestowed on this history of early medical history in this country. The author has not only given us a most complete account of all that pertains to medicine and medical men, but he has put it before the reader in such a manner as to make the reading of it a pleasure. The subjects are so classified and arranged that little is duplicated, something hard to avoid when it is considered that each colony, to a certain extent at least, has to be treated as an entirety. The whole subject is so exhaustively, logically and scientifically treated by Packard that his book will immediately become a standard work on the subject.

A MANUAL OF MEDICINE. Edited by W. H. Allehin, M.D. (LOND.), F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E., Senior Physician and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine, Westminster Hospital. Vol. I. General Diseases: Diseases Excited by Atmospheric Influences; the Infections. Vol. II. General Diseases continued: Diseases Caused by Parasites; Diseases Determined by Poisons Introduced into the Body; Primary Perversions of General Nutrition; Diseases of the Blood. Cloth. Pp. 441 and 380 respectively. Price, \$2.00 per volume. New York: Mac-Millan Co. 1901.

This work, two volumes of which have already appeared, is a brief but in many respects satisfactory compendium of medical practice. It is more of a compendium in that it is a composite work, the subjects being treated by different authors. The names of many of whom carry weight in this country as well as in Great Britain. The general articles are largely by the editor, Dr. Allchin, but the special ones on different diseases are by many different writers. This volume satisfactorily covers the subject of general diseases in the main, though the articles are necessarily brief, in one or two cases unduly so. For example, pneumonia is a general infection, but is here treated only in its aspects as an epidemic disease, leaving out the general description and what the practitioner most desires to know. The second volume also deals with general diseases and is of the same general character.

THERAPEUTICS: ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE. By Horatio C. Wood, M.D., LL.D. (Lafayette-Yale), Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, and Clinical Professor of Diseases of the Nervous System, in the University of Pennsylvania. Eleventh Edition. Remodelled and in Greater Part Rewritten. By Horatio C. Wood and Horatio C. Wood, Jr., M.D., Demonstrator of Pharmacodynamics in the University of Pennsylvania. Cloth. Pp. 850. Price \$5.00. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1900.

Wood's Therapeutics has been so long before the medical public that its eleventh issue hardly requires an introduction. The author, however, states that while other editions have been chiefly improved by incorporation of new matter, in the present edition an effort has been made throughout to get a new view of the whole subject of therapeutics, presented in the most attractive form. The use of small type for minor descriptions and discussions, etc., is an advantage. Taking the references out of the body of the text and putting them in nonpareil at the end of the chapter is perhaps more satisfactory to many, but this is not as well as having them directly before the eye on the page in which they are made; this, however, is a minor matter. All new drugs of any value, according to medical experience, are included, though no work can keep up with the flood of products which are constantly being put out and recommended to the medical profession. The present edition will undoubtedly still hold its place among the standard textbooks on therapeutics.

THE YEAR BOOK OF THE NOSE, THROAT, AND EAR. The Nose and Throat, edited by G. P. Head, M.D., Professor of Laryngology and Rhinology in the Post-Graduate Medical School of Chicago. The Ear, edited by Albert H. Andrews, M.D., Professor of Otology in the Post-Graduate Medical School of Chicago. Cloth. Pp. 416. Price \$2.00. Chicago: The Year-Book Publishers. 1901.

The previous volume of this year-book was so well received that the editors continued their work and give us this year a somewhat larger compilation of the literature on nose, throat and ear diseases than was given last year. The abstracts are well selected and cover the whole range of the ordinarily accessible literature. They notice the difficulties which every one must experience who is engaged in the work of culling out the essence of what has been written, and remark in their preface that many articles have been omitted on account of their being simply statements of accepted opinions written for the general practitioner, or in some cases that they touch upon so many points of such importance that abstracting is not possible. They are mentioned under proper headings so that those interested may readily refer to them. The two volumes that have appeared of this year-book make one hope that it will receive sufficient support to justify its continuance for years to come.