

onslaught upon the unclassical character of many of the recent terms introduced into medical nomenclature is made in this new and ninth edition of Hoblyn's Dictionary. The author takes the opportunity of discussing the subject at a time when the tendency to coin and to introduce into general use fresh terms is very marked. Mr. Hoblyn refers not only to errors in words of recent appearance, but to those which have gradually arisen in regard to the euphony and meaning of old-established terms; and he has made certain changes in the spelling of various words in these two classes, which he feels ought to be generally adopted, as being altogether more classical, and consonant with our advanced medical knowledge. In the first place, the employment of the letter *c* instead of *k* in words of Greek origin has led to confusion, not only of spelling, but also of sound, more particularly when *c* is followed by the vowels *e* and *i*, which suggest to the English ear the soft sound of *s* instead of the harsher sound of *k*. The letter *k* is used in the present edition of the Dictionary in its proper place, and we now have a batch of words commencing with *k* which were formerly placed with those beginning with *c*. The importance of using the terminations *sis* and *ma* in a proper manner—the one as representing cause, and the other effect (for example, “glucosis,” and “glaucoma”)—is pointed out. Mr. Hoblyn remarks that medical terminology is over-run with hybrid terms, of which he gives a list. Those ending in (*o*)*id*, (*o*)*ides*, admit of easy correction by using the Latin word *forma* in place of the Greek suffix in those terms which are not cognate; as in cancri-form, furunculi-form, lumbrici-form, ovi-form, &c. The term vitiligoidea “sets all rules of terminology at defiance.” The definition and composition of words are fully given, in accordance with our most recent knowledge of medical matters, and are of great utility to student and practitioner.

Pennsylvania Hospital Reports. Vol. I., 1868. Imp. 8vo. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston. — The recent active movement amongst hospital staffs in this country to give to the world in an independent form some of the choicest results of their experience has extended to the United States. The staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital has been the earliest to follow the example, and the handsomely printed volume of Reports now lying before us is the first result of their combined labours. It is edited by Dr. J. M. Da Costa and Dr. Wm. Hunt, and contains numerous able medical and surgical papers. The first article is devoted to some notes on the Pennsylvania Hospital, and reminiscences of the physicians and surgeons who have served in it, by Dr. Charles D. Meigs. Amongst the subjects treated of by the various “reporters” may be mentioned—Laceration of the Female Perineum (Dr. D. Hayes Agnew); the Morphological Changes of the Blood in Malarial Fever (Dr. J. Forsyth Meigs and others); Acupressure (Dr. Addinell Hewson); Physiological Observations and Experiments on a Case of Large Artificial Anus, with an account of the Surgical and Mechanical Efforts of Cure (Dr. Wm. Hunt); the Action of Narcein (Dr. Da Costa); Ligature of Large Arteries in the Pennsylvania Hospital (Dr. T. Geo. Merton); the Pathological Changes in the Fluorescence of the Tissues (Dr. Ed. Roads and Dr. Wm. Pepper), &c. These closely packed volumes of articles on many subjects, medical and surgical, are the despair of the reviewer. At the best, even if he print index and synoptical table of contents in detail, he can only hope to indicate the nature of the material to be found within their pages.

Wholesome Fare, or the Doctor and Cook. By EDMUND T. and ELLEN J. DELAMERE. London: Lockwood and Co.—The leading conception of this book is good. It aims at making the work not a mere collection of receipts, but a readable and interesting as well as instructive treatise. The writers have succeeded only in part. They write with a freedom which too often degenerates into coarseness. Thus, citing Dumas's method of making a winter salad—“Then, and then only,”

writes the novelist, “I restore the salad to the bowl, causing it to be well stirred by my domestic,”—the authors add in a parenthesis, “The bumptious bone in the great man's arm prevented his stirring it himself.” Again, desirous to display great familiarity with knowledge not coming under their own immediate ken, they are apt to become pretentious and to blunder. They are to be complimented in attempting a popular account of the trichina spiralis and trichiniasis, added to the chapter on Pork; but when, writing of poisonous sausages, they say, “As a natural consequence, a German physiologist, gifted with a lively imagination, coolly invented ham-poison (*schinkengift*) and sausage-poison (*wurstgift*),” they convict themselves of ignorance as well as impertinence. Still again, when the writers include in a book of “Wholesome Fare” a chapter of so-called wrinkles which contains receipts for furniture-polish, bandoline, the cure of whooping-cough and of coughs pure and simple, &c., they commit an egregious inconsistency, and subject themselves to the suspicion of swelling the size of the book at all risk—a suspicion not diminished by a foolish chapter of “conclusions” respecting sedentary, professional, and literary persons. As we have said, however, the conception of the book is good, and if the volume were subjected to severe criticism and much curtailment, it would prove a useful work. But we must add that some of the receipts should be subjected to the test of trial before being again given to the world. It would be a good work to promote the use of rice amongst our labouring population, but the directions given for making pillaw in “Wholesome Fare,” we imagine, if followed, could only result in dishes which would create disgust.

Thomson's Conspectus, adapted to the British Pharmacopœia. Edited by E. LLOYD BIRKETT, M.D. New Edition, pp. 248. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1868.—A more general and full account of the classes of substances employed in medicine precedes the description of individual drugs in the present edition. Various additions and emendations enhance its value as a useful guide for the practitioner and student. It is one of the little works which may be used with advantage in mastering the recent changes in the Pharmacopœias.

A VISIT TO NETLEY HOSPITAL.

THE Royal Victoria Hospital for military invalids is an institution which must always interest a medical visitor, if only as an asylum for many hundreds of sick and maimed soldiers, most of them invalids sent home from distant quarters of the globe. At the present moment, however, when it is proposed to institute a Naval Medical School at Greenwich, the hospital at Netley possesses peculiar interest as the seat of the Army Medical School which has done, and is doing, so much to improve the special or military knowledge of the surgeons of the army by instructing in the most perfect manner the candidates for the army medical service, who are then drafted off to active duty in the various regiments.

The Netley Hospital is placed on the margin of the Southampton water, about three miles below Southampton, and is readily reached from that town by a branch railway. It possesses a bold façade as seen from the water, though the original design by Barry was marred by a piece of economy on the part of the authorities which necessitated the curtailment of the central dome and clock tower, which is therefore out of proportion to the rest of the elevation. The building is in the classic style, with red-brick walls and stone dressings; and is built on the corridor plan, which, whilst having the advantage of affording a promenade under cover, exposes a large surface of glass to the full action of the south-west gales, which must render the corridors excessively cold in winter, since there is no hot-water apparatus for heating them, but only open fire-places at considerable intervals. Opening out of the corridors are the wards, containing twelve beds each; and to each ward

is attached a water-closet, urinal, and bath, which latter looks very comfortable and clean, but has this peculiarity—that it is never used! It appears that all these baths are made of slabs of enameled slate set in metal fittings, and the admission of hot water into them in many cases cracked the sides, so that an order has been issued that the baths *are not to be used*. In the centre of the building, however, there are some metal baths which are available; and there is also a swimming bath, but which is available only under the following special circumstances:—It is supplied with salt water from the neighbouring Southampton water, and there is a pump to raise the water, but this pump can only be worked by a windmill, which, being in a hollow in the very lowest part of the hospital grounds, will only revolve under the inspiration of a south-west breeze. Given a sou'-wester, the bath is filled; but in the summer, when bathing is most required and sou'-westers are scarce, water becomes equally so, thanks to the contrivers of this ingenious plan. The water-supply to the hospital is, in fact, altogether inadequate, and is one of those fatal blunders for which our military engineers are so notorious. The whole establishment depends for its washing-water upon a small reservoir behind the hospital, but this in summer is so inadequate that warm baths are often obliged to be countermanded on this score. It is probable, however, that an increased supply might be obtained from a hill near Botley, about a mile off, but at the expense of some piping and trouble. The drinking supply is derived from two artesian wells, only one of which, however, is at present in use. These, moreover, are not perfectly satisfactory just now, and will probably require to be sunk deeper before they give a sufficient supply. As things are at present, the long continuance of drought would put the hospital in a very awkward position, as indeed occurred last summer; and as regards fire, although of course there are the usual Government fire arrangements of standards and hose, the supply of water would render any attempt to check a conflagration perfectly futile.

Only one wing of the building is devoted to the care of those actually sick, the medical patients being on the ground-floor and the surgical ones above them; the other wing is occupied by convalescents, and by men whose time of service is expired, and who are awaiting their discharge. The medical wards are under the charge of Dr. Maclean, Professor of Medicine, and Dr. Fyffe, his assistant; and the surgical under Dep. Inspect.-General Longmore, C.B., Professor of Military Surgery, and Staff Surgeon-Major MacKinnon, C.B., Assistant Professor of Military Surgery. Inspect.-General Beatson has recently been appointed to the office of principal medical officer, but at present his duties are being performed by Professor Longmore. Dr. Parkes and Dr. Aitken are attached to the Army Medical School, but have no charge of patients in the hospital.

It is in the wards of the hospital that the army candidates, who have already passed at Chelsea, are initiated into the routine of diets, medicine, &c., which forms so great a part of the military surgeon's care in after-life. On arriving at Netley, the candidates are divided into two batches, one of which goes on hospital duty for two months, whilst the other attends in the school, to which we shall presently refer. Each of them is put in charge of a ward, and is responsible for the treatment and dieting of the patients in it, under the supervision of the medical officer. Accurate case-books are kept; and such method is adopted that, when, as sometimes happens, an official letter is received from London demanding why on such a date, months before, a given patient was ordered a special extra diet, there may be no difficulty in reassuring the official mind that no extravagance has been committed. Failing, however, to satisfy the authorities of the necessity for the extra diet ordered, the unfortunate orderer, wherever he might be—possibly at the antipodes,—would be relentlessly *screwed* for the amount until it was refunded to the national chest.

Working under the medical staff is the "Army Hospital Corps," composed of intelligent men instructed in the duty of attending on the sick, some of whom undertake also the duty of dispensing the medicines required in the hospital. The men of this corps give satisfaction, we believe, to both medical officers and patients. As much cannot be said, however, for the female nursing system; and here we feel that we are approaching a delicate subject, but one upon which it is necessary that civilians should speak out, since the mouths of the mili-

tary are closed by the rules of the service. Female nurses might prove altogether beneficial if they were completely under the control of the medical staff, or at least if their own superintendent were amenable to the authority of the medical officers. It will be easily understood that there are many cases in which the immediate presence of a woman is neither requisite nor desirable; and particularly when, as is often the case, the patient has an insuperable objection to her presence. Under these circumstances, the surgeon would gladly dispense with the nurse, and let her be attending to other duties; but here the lady superintendent steps in, and *orders* the nurse to follow the medical officer closely in all his rounds. The lady superintendent, though no doubt a well-intentioned person, is the *bête noire* of the establishment. When we say that we believe, from the General at the head of the establishment to the most junior candidate, there is but one feeling of dislike to her constant interference, it is probably time that the public should inquire why a whole public establishment is sacrificed to please a lady of aristocratic connexions. It is not on behalf of the medical officers only that we speak; but when patients suffering from serious disease are endangered by disturbances due to the causes we have referred to, humanity demands some modification of the present management.

In the central portion of the hospital is a fine lecture-room and library, and here also is the museum which was removed from Fort Pitt, and which receives constant additions both from the hospital and from abroad. In the rear of the hospital are the medical school buildings, including a post-mortem room, laboratory, and microscope room. Here Dr. Aitken, and his assistant, Mr. Wearne, instruct the candidates in the use of the microscope, and in the study of pathology; here also Dr. Parkes, and his assistant, Dr. De Chaumont, give instruction in all matters of hygiene, including the analysis of food, water, &c. The Medical Department of the Army now undertakes the meteorological duties formerly in charge of the corps of Engineers, and instruction in this important duty is now part of the regular course at Netley. The meteorological returns from the medical officers of the army are transmitted to Netley from the Director-General's office in London, and are there examined and compiled for publication in the Department Blue-book, by Staff-surgeon Major A. W. Reade, the registrar to the hospital, in whose office also the statistics of the establishment are recorded.

It will be interesting to give a sketch of the day's work of the army candidates whilst resident in the Army Medical School. At 9 o'clock in summer, and 10 in winter, they are expected to be on duty in the wards, and are occupied until 12 o'clock. From 12 to 1 o'clock those doing hospital duty are occupied in the library or museum, unless by special exemption. Those attending the school are engaged from 11 to 1, and any candidates who are desirous are allowed to work at any other times they wish, the microscope rooms and laboratory being open at all times for the working men. At 1 daily a lecture is given by one of the professors to the whole of the candidates. After 2 the candidates are at liberty for exercise or private study, those in charge of patients having of course to make an evening visit to their wards. At 6.30 the candidates assemble at mess, several members of the staff dining also. The mess-room is a fine one in a detached building, where are also the officers' quarters, and a goodly company of upwards of seventy young men in mess uniform assemble here every night. The dinner is excellent and moderate in price, and wine, though provided, is perfectly optional, and each man can therefore suit his taste and pocket. Breakfast and luncheon are provided here for those who desire it, and as furnished rooms, coals, and gas are supplied for the candidates, their *ad interim* pay of five shillings per diem is or ought to be sufficient for their actual expenses. A fine reading-room, well furnished with periodicals, a billiard-room, croquet, and cricket are provided for their general amusement; and, in fact, the life of an army medical candidate at Netley is rather a thing to be desired.

A moment's glance showed us that, notwithstanding the liberty which the candidate enjoys at Netley, the all-important matter of discipline is not lost sight of. Though the senior officers resident on the spot are evidently on the best of terms with their young subordinates, the respect for military rank which is so integral a portion of the army system is here very rightly inculcated, and the young surgeon learns to salute his superior officer as a part of his professional training. Such mild and yet necessary military discipline as is enforced at Netley cannot but be advantageous to the young men submitted to it, and none who are worthy of the name of officer and gentleman can object to become amenable to it.