

taken by the author—420 drops of the tincture—on one occasion in the course of three hours, and in a second observation 26 grs. of the fresh alcoholic extract in the same time. The physiological effects in the first instance appear to have been very slight, and in the second experiment neither the sphygmographic nor the subjective phenomena were in proportion to the courage of the self-tormenting observer. Other experiments were made with aconite, gelseminum, and quinine, but with little addition to our knowledge.

We are sorry not to be able to congratulate the author on his work. His great misfortune was, we think, the invention of a new form of sphygmograph. With one of the original instruments of Marey, his patience and industry would, we believe, have made more important additions to the literature of the sphygmograph.

**Dunghlison's Medical Dictionary.**<sup>1</sup>—Dunghlison's dictionary has acquired an honorable place in medical literature, and very deservedly so by reason of its many merits. A new edition was much needed on account of the vast multiplication of terms used in medicine and the collateral sciences, invented by actual or supposed discoverers, and particularly in Germany. We are, therefore, not surprised to hear that "the present edition will be found to contain many hundred more terms than the first, and to have experienced numerous additions and modifications." Nevertheless, it would be possible for the student versed in Teutonic and French medical literature to find not a few terms missing, in sufficient vogue to deserve a place. A defect of this kind is, however, inevitable in any such compilation, and when the medical pupil has a volume like the one before us placed in his hands as constituting a mere lexicon of terms or skeleton of facts that he must transfer to his head and clothe with abundance of knowledge, he may well cry, hold! enough!

The author states that his "object has not been to make the work a mere lexicon of terms, but to afford under each, a condensed view of its various medical relations, and thus to render the work an epitome of the existing condition of medical science." This object we regard as too ambitious and extensive for a work such as Dr. Dunghlison had in view, or was really demanded. An epitome of the shallowest dimensions representing the actual condition of medical science, together with that of the several collateral branches of that science, as comprehended in this volume, is beyond the compass of a dictionary like that before us, and beyond the power of most ordinary mortals to produce. And, in fact, the necessities imposed upon the author have of themselves saved him, in regard to

<sup>1</sup> *A Dictionary of Medical Science with the Accentuation and Etymology of the Terms and the French and other Synonyms.* By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M.D. A new edition enlarged and thoroughly revised by RICHARD J. DUNGLISON, M.D. London, 1874. Pp. 1131.

most terms, from his ambitious project; and where he has ventured on further detail than is necessary to explain the terms before him, he is often at fault in introducing obscure and ambiguous information, doubtful opinions, and questionable practice. His notes of treatment in various important diseases are uncalled for, and are generally open to strong objections. As a matter of course they are very brief, and so far as they apply to disease expressed by some general term, though comprehending pathological conditions of great variety, they would, if acted upon, as a rule, prove positively mischievous. Active antiphlogistic measures, blood-letting to produce a decided effect, antimonials and kindred agents, are prescribed, accompanied by few provoides, in most inflammatory affections.

The definitions of anatomical terms might, in various instances, be much amended as regards perspicuity at least, if not correctness. The classification of the human races, introduced under the heading *Homo*, need revision, for that of Blumenbach will not pass muster at the present day among ethnologists.

Another desideratum of this dictionary, now that it has assumed the character of an English publication, issued by our great London medical publishing firm, is that, the formulæ of the British Pharmacopœia should find a place alongside those of the United States Pharmacopœia, which, in the present edition, furnishes the basis of reference for the pharmaceutical preparations enumerated.

Although we have thus freely spoken of shortcomings, we are fully sensible of the excellencies of this medical dictionary, and these in themselves are sufficient to secure for it the good opinion of the profession, and, as we trust, its success as a publication.

**Manual of Public Health for Ireland.**<sup>1</sup>—Division of labour is usually valued as a means of economizing time and facilitating production. The principle has been applied in the production of the work before us; clearly, however, not for the sake of the end commonly aimed at in the way of rapid development, for the preface apologises for delay in execution, but on the assumption presumably that the special matters comprised within the scope of public health legislation can be best treated by those specially informed in them. It is thus we account for the strong force of four writers in the production of this small treatise, viz., of two medical doctors, a barrister, and a professor of chemistry. At the same time, viewing its contents, we must say that the array of talent seems much in excess of the demand for it. The sections relating to legal requirements are extracted, as a matter of course, from the provisions of "The Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1874," and, as for other portions, they are gathered

<sup>1</sup> *Manual of Public Health for Ireland.* By THOMAS W. GRIMSHAW, M.D., &c.; J. EMERSON REYNOLDS, F.C.S.; ROBERT O'B. FURLONG, M.A.; and JOHN W. MOORE, M.D., &c. Dublin, 1875.