

"TERMINOLOGIA MEDICA POLYGLOTTA."

DR. THEODORE MAXWELL (Woolwich Common) writes: In justice to my many eminent English and foreign coadjutors, I hope you will allow me to point out several inaccuracies into which the reviewer of *Terminologia Medica Polyglotta* has fallen.

1. "Plague spot" is mentioned, not, however, as a translation of "Pest-beule," which would not be correct (this being properly translated "malignant bubo"), but as the equivalent of "Pest-flecken."

2. "Bruit placentaire" is not given as an equivalent of "bruit de soufflet," but "soufflet, bruit de" is translated "bellows sound or murmur."

3. "Rice water stool" is not omitted, but two French equivalents are given for it.

4. Though "corroborant" is omitted, "corroborans" is given, with an English and French translation.

5. Bilingual medical dictionaries, of which the reviewer implies that there is a profusion, are simply non-existent, except in the cases of Germ-Eng. and Germ-Fr. In order to occupy the ground which the *Terminologia* attempts—imperfectly of course—to cover, no less than twenty-five bilingual dictionaries would be required without any reference to Latin. Had one-half or even one-third of these been in existence, my colleagues and I would certainly have saved ourselves the years of labour the work in question has cost us.

*1. "Pest-flecken" are surely the petechiae in plague, "Pest-beule" the old plague spot, that is, the plague bubo. "Malignant bubo" is scarcely English, and can be found in few medical books.

2. Dr. Maxwell misunderstands the criticism, and makes a serious error in his correction. What the reviewer implied was that "bruit de soufflet" was not given (as it is not among the "bruits"), but was only represented by "bruit placentaire." Of course "bruit placentaire" and "bruit de soufflet" are synonymous terms. See, for example, *Leishman's System of Midwifery*, 2nd edition, p. 183; 4th edition, p. 191. "Bruit placentaire" is of course now obsolete, the pathology of the sound being better understood than in 1823. "Soufflet, bruit de," is defined as "bruit anormal dans le cœur," and there is nothing to show that it is used of the uterine sound.

3. The reviewer overlooked the entry "R. water stools," in this abbreviated form.

4. Dr. Maxwell admits reviewer's statement.

5. German-English bilingual dictionaries are numerous, and several French-English dictionaries supply nearly if not quite all the *Terminologia* offers. Of Spanish, Russian and Italian, the reviewer cannot speak. He only asserted that polyglot dictionaries of this size must be imperfect—an opinion he still holds.

He wishes especially to state that the errors and omissions he noted were only the fruit of a few hours' inspection, and could have been largely added to by further examination.

PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA.

FIBRINOGEN writes: I have full notes of two cases of puerperal albuminuria and dropy at full term, occurring within a fortnight of each other. In one, after a normal labour, eclampsia supervened in twelve hours, was preceded by acute cephalic pain, and proved fatal in thirty-six hours, consciousness never having been regained after the first two convulsions; there was urinary suppression.

I treated the case with antifebrin, jalapin, and venesection to four ounces three times. I have seen venesection to sixteen ounces in a full-blooded patient cure the disease. I gave antifebrin as an "analgesic," and antipyrin subcutaneously for the same reason. For urinary suppression jalapin is a recognised remedy.

In the second case, which was a precisely similar one, I gave one dose of antifebrin for the cephalic pain complained of, and found that aggravation of the symptom followed, so I gave full doses of nitrous ether (one drachm every hour or two hours) and pulv. jalape comp. Free purgation and full diuresis were thereby established, and eclampsia did not supervene. It would appear, therefore, that the compounds of the coal tar series should be avoided. I am strongly of opinion that, as the most powerful defibrinating agents we possess, they cause mischief by increasing hydraemia in these and other diseases.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Textbook of Physiological and Pathological Chemistry. By G. Bunge. Translated from the second German edition by the late L. C. Wooldridge, M.D., D.Sc. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. 1890.

Mind and Matter. By Owen Barnard. Price, 1s. London and Manchester: John Heywood. 1890.

A Treatise on Orthopedic Surgery. By Edward H. Bradford, M.D., and Robert W. Lovett, M.D. New York: William Wood. 1890.

Mikrophotographischer Atlas der Bakterienkunde. Von Dr. Carl Franke 1 und Dr. Richard Pfeiffer. Siebente Lieferung. Berlin: August Hirschwald. 1890.

Sewage Disposal Works. By W. Santo Cramp. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1890.

Masse-therapeutics; or Massage as a Mode of Treatment. By William Murrell M.D., F.R.C.P. Fifth edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

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