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DR. HOOPER'S PHYSICIAN'S VADE MECUM. New Edition, entirely rewritten, enlarged, and greatly improved. By W. A. Guy, M.B., Physician to King's College Hospital.

EXTRACT FROM EDITOR'S PREFACE.

The present edition consists of two parts, corresponding to what is commonly understood by the terms general and special pathology and therapeutics.

The first part consists of six chapters. The first chapter is merely introductory, and contains a scheme of medical study which, it is hoped, may prove useful to the pupil at his first entrance upon his studies. The second chapter contains some useful directions for the taking of cases. The third chapter, headed "Health and Disease," consists chiefly of definitions and explanations of terms. An outline of Physiology and General Pathology forms the subject of the fourth chapter, in which an attempt is made to bring together some of those facts and theories which admit, either directly or indirectly, of practical application. Those functions of the body which attract most attention at the bedside, and those methods of examination which are of most constant application, form the subjects of the fifth chapter. They are the examination of the blood and urine, of the chest and abdomen, of the pulse and respiration. In this part of the work, the object of the editor has been to furnish the most exact information concerning the functions of the body in a state of health; and with this view he has embodied his own observations on the pulse, and introduced, under the head of the respiration, some facts at present new to the profession. The last chapter contains a brief outline of General Therapeutics, with the addition of tables of the doses of the more important remedies, the proportion of the more active ingredients contained in the preparations of the pharmacopœia, and of the doses proper for each age.

Throughout this first part, the editor's object has been to make the work useful as a book of reference at the bedside; at the same time ~~he has endeavoured so to connect his several parts together as to offer some inducement to the reader to study it as a whole.~~

In the second part, very extensive alterations have been made. Cullen's nosology has been laid aside, and an arrangement has been adopted which brings together the diseases which affect the same organs, or are otherwise nearly allied to each other. No attempt has been made to form a nosological system, but the diseases are, for the sake of convenience, thrown together in separate chapters.

Many liberties have been taken with the text. The prescriptions had been thrown together at the end, and carefully arranged under distinct heads, instead of being scattered through the body of the work; the original text and the emendations made in the later editions, have been fused together and blended with the additions made by the editor; many parts of the work have been so much shortened as to admit of the introduction of a great number of diseases not described in former editions; many others which were only incidentally mentioned are treated under separate heads; and a still greater number have been so much altered as to be nearly new.

Among the additions to the work may be mentioned, general observations on continued fever, puerperal fevers, plague, muscular rheumatism, neuralgia, cephalalgia; and among the diseases which have undergone the greatest alteration, infantile fever, diarrhoea, hydrophobia, laryngitis, asthma, phthisis, diabetes.

Some portions of the work on which the late editor had bestowed much labour, as the diseases of the heart and those of the skin, have been left nearly in the state in which the present editor found them; but

even here the same liberty has been used of curtailing anything which appeared unnecessary, and adding in what appeared wanting. Original observations of practical remarks, embodying the results of the editor's own experience, are distinguished by the initial G. A copious index, prepared with much care, completes the volume.

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I regret very much that it was incompatible with the size of the volume to admit ample references; however, after the avowal I have just made, it will be understood that their omission has resulted neither from a wish to claim the merit of originality, nor from a desire to save myself trouble. I can truly say that I have examined every author of eminence within my reach, in the course of composition of the work, and have done my utmost to lay before the student a condensed and yet extensive statement of the present state of the science.

Perhaps I ought to say a word as to the elaborate statistics I have given. I would not overrate their value; at the utmost they only afford an approximate estimate, owing to the drawbacks upon their exactness, and could not alone furnish us with accurate conclusions; nevertheless, their value is considerable, as showing the relative mortality of the deviations from natural labour, and of the different operations. Whatever value they do possess it is evident will be in proportion to their extent and accuracy; and to secure both these points, I have examined the various reports myself, and obtained access to some but little known in this country, forming altogether a very large number.

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