

used in medicine, with their proper pronunciation and definition. The author, Dr. Gould, is the ophthalmic surgeon to the Philadelphia Hospital, and Clinical Chief of the Ophthalmological Department, German Hospital, in the same city. Elaborate tables of bacilli, etc., as well as of weights and measures, and thermometers, with much other useful information, carefully classified, are given. Useless and obsolete words are eliminated, and words created during the past decade are added. There is a useful table of prefixes and suffixes. We have found on reference to recent words that they mostly find a place in the dictionary.

Dr. Maxwell's work is highly meritorious, and must have involved a painful amount of labour. It is of international importance. French has been chosen as the foundation, and French words have consequently been translated into Latin, English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. It is necessary that the reader should know a little French if he wishes to gain every advantage from the work. It is rich in synonyms. There is no dictionary in the world like it. Its moderate price (20 francs) places it within the reach of the profession generally. It would be lamentable if such a painstaking and accurate work were not to meet with the success which it certainly ought to achieve.

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*Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia): Its Symptoms, Nature, Sequences, and Treatment.* By GEORGE M. BEARD, A.M., M.D. Edited by A. D. Rockwell, A.M., M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.

Whatever opinion may be held in regard to the necessity of introducing the word neurasthenia, all will admit that a number of cases present the symptoms of nervous exhaustion. Again, while there is a general feeling that the subject has been so much written upon during the last few years, that readers themselves are in danger of exhaustion, it is true that there has been an advantage in the more definite grouping of the cases which Dr. Beard desired to include under Neurasthenia. It is convenient to have in a handy form the work which is especially associated with this author's name. The malady is treated in a systematic manner. We have the symptoms defined, among which are included topophobia, claustrophobia, agoraphobia, anthropophobia, monophobia, phobophobia, mysophobia, and pantaphobia. The love of

labelling all the morbid symptoms to which man is subject is no doubt carried to an absurd extreme, and if this multiplex terminology is accepted, it must be on the understanding that it is merely a *mariage de convenance* between terms and symptoms without any necessary pathological union. The nature and diagnosis of nervous exhaustion follow, and afterwards the prognosis, sequences, and treatment of the malady.

The diagnosis between neurasthenia and lithæmia is described at some length. Lithic acid is found in both conditions, or rather may be in the former and not the latter, and cannot therefore enter into the distinctive signs. The character of the mental phenomena in the two affections is of most importance. "Both the lithæmic and neurasthenic suffer from mental depression, and the profound sense of misery is more marked in the former than the latter condition; while, however, the neurasthenic may suffer from the deepest melancholy and imagine himself heir to a thousand ills, he becomes the victim, as a rule, of no such irritability and unreasonable outburst of temper as the man whose brain is actually poisoned by the imperfectly transformed products of digestion. The neurasthenic may be at times extremely irritable, but this irritability is more passive than active, and any ebullition of angry feeling is quite evanescent. His demeanour is, as a rule, quiet, and there is but little manifest tendency to make those dependent upon him miserable by his words and actions. The touchy mood of the lithæmic, on the contrary, may last for days or weeks. It is due to actual toxæmia, is often, if not generally, accompanied by obstinate constipation, and may be relieved completely by the action of a cholagogue cathartic," p. 144.

The reader must study the book itself if he wishes to know how very much is comprised under the term which has now become so familiar.

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*Headache and Neuralgia.* By J. LEONARD CORNING, M.A., M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890. 2nd Edition.

This edition contains an appendix on eye-strain as a cause of headache, by Dr. David Webster, the professor of Ophthalmology in the New York Polyclinic, which is valuable.

Dr. Corning's treatise includes a disquisition on normal and morbid sleep, which is of more immediate interest to the psychologist.