

book in English dealing with this branch of science demands particular attention.

The great difficulty in writing such a book is in the rapid developments which are being made in the subject, and it seems as if the method followed in Germany, of issuing monographs on a particular branch of applied electrochemistry, was really more practical than attempting to include them all in one book.

In the present volume Professor Thompson has fifteen chapters, ten of which deal with electrolysis in the wet way, the remaining chapters being devoted to the electric furnace and its products.

There are necessarily a great many processes to be described in such a program, but notwithstanding this a considerable part of the space is devoted to theoretical considerations. While the theoretical discussion is important, there are many good books which deal with this exclusively, and it would seem perhaps better to have expanded the description of the actual processes themselves.

Thus the refining of copper, which is an electrochemical process of the first magnitude, is described in seven pages, and aluminium, which is manufactured on a very large scale, is dealt with in five pages, and the actual process is described in a few lines without illustration.

The book as a whole, however, serves a very useful purpose, giving a great deal of information on a long list of subjects. Abundant references are furnished and the illustrations are excellent. One typographical error occurs, however, which seems a pity, the name of Moissan is invariably printed *Moisson*.

The contents of the book is as follows: Coulometers, Electrochemical Analysis, Electroplating, Winning and Refining Metals in Aqueous Solution, Reduction and Oxidation, Electrolysis of the Alkali Chlorides, Electrolysis of Water, Primary Cells, The Lead Storage Battery and the Edison Storage Battery, The Electric Furnace and Products of the Arc and Resistance Furnaces, Electrometallurgy of Iron and Steel, Fixation of Atmospheric Nitrogen, The Production of Ozone, Appendix, Name and Subject Indexes.

SAMUEL A. TUCKER

*Lippincott's New Medical Dictionary*, a vocabulary of the terms used in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and the allied sciences, with their pronunciation, etymology and signification, including much collateral information of a descriptive and encyclopedic character. By HENRY W. CATTELL, M.D. Philadelphia and London, J. B. Lippincott Company. 1911. Freely illustrated with figures in the text. Second edition. 8vo. Pp. xvi + 1108. Price \$5.

There is hardly any field of science that is more in need of a technical dictionary than medicine. One might trace back the first attempt to provide the medical profession with such a work as early as circa 1300, when Simone Cordo of Genoa wrote his "*Synonyma medicinae sive clavis sanitatis*" (editio princeps, Milano, 1473). In the United States the first medical dictionary (not taking into consideration the American editions or reprints of English medical dictionaries) to be issued was published in 1808 by John Redman Coxe, of Philadelphia (1773-1863), professor in the University of Pennsylvania and one of the leading American physicians in the first half of the last century.

Since then here and abroad numerous medical dictionaries have been published. As one of the best, if not the best, in another language, we consider Walter Guttman's "*Medizinische Terminologie*" (4 Auflage, Berlin, 1911). In England Richard D. Hoblyn's dictionary of terms used in medicine and the collateral sciences (14th edition, London, 1909) takes a very high rank.

In Lippincott's "*New Medical Dictionary*," written by Dr. Henry Ware Cattell, of Philadelphia, we have a work which not only equals those just mentioned, but even excels them in completeness, thoroughness and encyclopedic method. However, it is only just to state that owing to the low educational requirements and inadequate instruction in many of our medical colleges an American medical dictionary must be written under conditions entirely different from those in other coun-

tries. A dictionary for the use of the medical profession in this country must be prepared along broader lines and must include many definitions which we search for in vain in those of other countries. This makes the task much more difficult, taking into consideration the wonderful progress of medicine and its collateral sciences in the last few years. Only a physician of the highest professional attainments can undertake such a work, and the publisher must be congratulated on entrusting this work to such a man as Dr. Cattell. His editorial experience as editor of *International Clinics*, his laboratory work in some of our best medical institutions and his high standing as pathologist and practitioner make him eminently fitted for the task. The immediate predecessor of the present book was Lippincott's "Medical Dictionary," published in 1897 under the editorial collaboration of the late Professor John Ashhurst, Professor George A. Piersol and Professor Joseph P. Remington. For this edition Dr. Cattell had the able assistance of other collaborators to whom he gives proper credit in the preface. One will understand what an amount of painstaking labor was involved in the preparation of the present work when we state that Dr. Cattell devoted five years to its completion. The medical lexicographer is generally confronted with such an "embarras de richesses" regarding his material that it taxes an author's greatest editorial ability to overcome the difficulty satisfactorily. But we must admit, that our author, by a wise economy in the grouping of words, has not only solved this problem, but also succeeded in such a way that his medical dictionary contains more words than any other. For instance, all words which begin with the same initial element or are of the same etymological origin are grouped together. This space-saving method has made it possible to insert so many new words and to give the dictionary its encyclopedic character. The etymology of words derived from foreign languages is always given, not, however, immediately after the word, but after the definition, following here the arrangement of the "Standard Dictionary." In this connection

we may remark that the printing of the Greek alphabet with its proper pronunciation in English seems extremely appropriate, taking into consideration the large number of physicians who are not such apt Greek scholars as Dr. Achilles Rose. Eponymic terms are profusely given, and at the same time accurately and concisely, which is a very important matter. The cross-references are ample and are one of the most useful features of the book. The author's aim to furnish the medical student, the practitioner and the laboratory worker with a dictionary of moderate compass and at a reasonable price is more than fulfilled. It must indeed be very gratifying for the author and for the publisher, that this book, which was first published in August, 1910, met with such success that it had to be reprinted within three months after publication and issued in a new edition within a year. The new edition is materially increased; about 500 new words have been inserted, and 71 new illustrations have been added.

Take it all in all we do not hesitate to recommend Lippincott's "New Medical Dictionary" as an indispensable tool for the medical profession at large.

FELIX NEUMANN

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THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO<sup>1</sup>

NEARLY every one of the twenty-two universities constituting this association was represented at this meeting, the larger number of them by its president and at least one delegate, as was the case with Minnesota.

The first paper presented was by Dean Greene, of Illinois, on the question of the relative advantages of organizing university departments on the usual plan of permanently retaining a single head *versus* the Harvard plan of a departmental committee under a chairman.

It was shown that while during the period during which a department is small and in-

<sup>1</sup> From the *Minnesota Alumni Weekly*.