

MEDICAL LIBRARIES.

"For Libraries are the standing armies of civilization."—O. W. Holmes.

Devoted to the Interests of Medical Libraries, Bibliography and Letters.

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C. D. SPIVAK, M.D.,

538 Twelfth Street., Denver, Colorado, U. S. A.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LIBRARIANS.

MEDICAL LIBRARIES hails with delight the advent of another publication devoted to the interest of medical libraries, and extends fraternal greetings to the *Bulletin of the Association of Medical Librarians*. The four numbers that have so far appeared reflect great credit upon the activity of the Association and the zeal of its editors. The Association of Medical Librarians whose object is the "fostering of medical libraries and the maintenance of an exchange of medical literature among its members," which was organized in 1898, in Philadelphia, with a membership of but a dozen libraries, counts at present seventy-one members, thirty-nine libraries in the United States, two in Canada, and one in England, and thirty-affiliated individual members. A splendid showing, indeed! The official* organ of the association, the *Bulletin*, will greatly add to the growth and strength of the organization. The editorial staff

is composed of a brilliant coterie of accomplished librarians—Miss M. C. Noyes, librarian of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, Baltimore, and Mr. John S. Brownne, librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, and that versatile and experienced editor, Dr. Henry M. Hurd, of Baltimore. These names are a guaranty that the *Bulletin* will never be classed as an ephemeral literary output. The contributions that have already appeared are of the highest order. Dr. William Osler contributed two articles, "A Visit to the Hunterian Library at Glasgow," and "Some Aspects of American Medical Bibliography;" Dr. E. F. Cordell described "The Library of a Colonial Physician (Dr. Upton Scott)"; Grace Whitney Myers jotted down a few excellent "Notes on the Bulletin Work of One Library"; John S. Brownne made some "Practical Hints on Book-

*MEDICAL LIBRARIES takes pride in the fact that it had served in the capacity of official organ of the Association of Medical Librarians up to 1901.

binding for Medical Libraries," and Charles Perry Fisher gave a fine historical sketch of the "Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia." The last number contains also two articles of interest to all medical librarians—the classification and arrangement of books in the libraries of the Surgeon General's office, Washington, and the College of Physicians, Philadelphia.

To him in whose brains the organization of this association has been first conceived, and to whose warm heart and willing hands the birth, growth and pres-

ent vigorous health of the association is chiefly due, to Dr. George M. Gould, **MEDICAL LIBRARIES** sends heartiest congratulations.

Officers of the Association of Medical Librarians.

President, Wm. Osler, M. D.; vice-president, Robert Fletcher, M. D.; secretary, Miss M. R. Charlton; treasurer, George D. Hersey, M. D.; executive committee, Geo. M. Gould, M. D., C. Perry Fisher, John S. Brownne; finance committee, Matthew D. Mann, M. D., Wm. Osler, M. D., Albert Van der Veer, James R. Chadwick, Miss M. R. Charlton; manager of exchange, Miss M. C. Noyes.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By **C. D. SPIVAK, M. D., Denver, Colo.**

In the world of industry we witness a tendency toward co-operation, unification and centralization. The one line store passes out of existence and its place is taken by the department store. The same tendency is prevailing in the educational world. The medical school proper is slowly disappearing and in its stead comes the medical department of the university. The libraries in large cities like New York, Chicago, Boston and elsewhere are becoming in one way or another merely departments of one great library system. The state libraries of several states have discarded the idea that their books are intended only for the delectation of the state solons—a law library pure

and simple. These progressive libraries collect, preserve and make available for the citizens of the state books on agriculture in its various subdivisions, mining, engineering, natural philosophy, etc. Medical departments in public libraries were but few until 1898¹ when there were only 43 medical departments in the United States, including departments in university libraries that are not supported by the state. Since 1898, however, the movement of medical departments spread rapidly, thanks to the passage of the resolutions by two powerful organizations favoring such departments, namely, the American Medical Association and

1. Spivak: *Medical Libraries in the United States*; Phila. Med. Jour., 1898, vol. ii, p 851.

American Library Association.

At the meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Denver, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: That the American Medical Association unanimously approve of any ethical and legitimate methods of encouraging the organization, perfection and support of public medical libraries in all cities, towns and villages of the United States, and urgently urges upon the members of the Association to aid in the formation and organization of such libraries.

This resolution stands unique in the annals of medical history. For the first time has the subject of medical libraries been brought up for discussion before such an august body.

One month after the Denver meeting of the Association, the men who hold the keys to all the libraries of the United States met at Lakewood, N. Y., and passed the following resolution:²

Whereas, the public library should be the means of stimulating all neighborhood, intellectual and scientific progress, and of representing the combined helpful forces ethical mental and sanitary, furthering the wellbeing of the entire community, it is therefore

RESOLVED, That in the opinion of the American Library Association it is both possible and advisable in the interests of the library, the profession and the community that public libraries should have medical departments and that physicians and medical societies be cordially invited to co-operate with the librarians and

trustees of public libraries in establishing and maintaining such medical departments.

Three years have passed since these two resolutions were adopted and now a voice is raised in protest against "spending the money of the people for books benefiting only one class."³ The author, Dr. G. E. Wire, introduces himself to the readers as a graduate in medicine and also of a library school, and therefore is presumed to know whereof he writes. He is not satisfied with theoretic considerations alone, but he hurls an accusation against the physicians in stigmatizing the movement for establishing medical departments in public libraries as having grown out of the "ambition of comparatively few men to make the people pay for books by which they may enrich themselves." He is especially bitter against the 2000 physicians of Chicago, from whom, in his five years of work in the Newberry Library, he could not "gain one iota of wisdom relative to selection of books or periodicals." What personal grudge Dr. Wire has against the physicians in general and the Chicago profession in particular I know not, but it sounds incredible that 2000 men who constantly read medical books and periodicals could not impart to Dr. Wire one iota of Wisdom concerning the things they are most familiar with. Is not there, perchance, something wrong with the recep-

2. Library Journal, vol. xxiii, p. 293.

3. Medical Departments in Rate Supported Libraries, *Public Libraries*, May 1901, p. 267

tive faculties of Dr. Weir? But admitting, for the sake of argument, that the physicians could not help Dr. Weir in selecting books, this argument does in no way militate against medical departments in public libraries. It is not the duty of the physicians to select books; it is the business of the librarian. Dr. Weir says, however, when he left the Newberry Library, the library contained 25,000 volumes, and 400 current medical periodicals were received. Dr. Wire, then, has evidently done his duty, whether with or without the aid of physicians. Since he left (1895), the library doubled the number of its volumes, and is now considered one of the best medical libraries in the United States. We know, also, that in the medical libraries of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Denver, etc., the books are selected by committees composed entirely of physicians, and Dr. Wire knows that these libraries will stand comparison with any special library in the world.

The only argument of sociologic import which Dr. Wire brings forward is that a public library should spend the money of the people for books benefiting the "public" at large and not a particular class of readers. Now the question is, who is the "public"? What does the public read? If we should take as a criterion the nature of the majority of the books read in the public libraries, then 95 per

cent of the reading of the "public" consists of novels, the bane of every librarian of the land. Yet there is no library whose stock consists of 95 per cent of novels. Ought the public libraries exclude books on agriculture because this would be catering to farmers, books on chemistry because they supply the wants of chemists? Are not the few, the 5 per cent readers of "solid literature," who read books on psychology, biology, bacteriology, pathology, sanitation, physiologic chemistry, etc., the real "public," for whose sake books are written, published and preserved. Without these few, readers, the public libraries might as well shut up shop or limit their activity to dispensing cheap novels. We have quite a different conception of the function of a public library, namely, that it should be the repository of the world's literature, in the widest sense of the word, and that it should endeavor to supply the varied wants of all its patrons.

After Dr. Wire has exhausted all his arguments, he says in conclusion: "Why do they (physicians) not have their own libraries, supported by themselves as do the lawyers in every considerable city? You do not find lawyers clamoring for law departments in public libraries, and why should the physicians be so favored at the public expense?" Dr. Wire who is a frequent contributor to library literature, and is at present a law librarian, ought to know some-

thing about the law libraries in the United States. It seems, however, that even lawyers could not add to his wisdom. Now, let us be reasonable and look into the statistics of the subject. According to the statistics of libraries in the United States, published in 1897 by the U. S. Bureau of Education,⁴ there are about 100 libraries each devoted exclusively to medicine and law. Out of the medical libraries only about ten are medical departments supported by the state or government, whereas every state or territorial library is *eo ipso* a law library and therefore the number of sup-

ported law libraries amount to more than sixty. That is the reason lawyers do not clamor for law departments. The lawyers have all they want without asking for it.

We are sure the librarians and physicians of the United States, who have inaugurated the movement for establishing medical departments in public libraries, will continue their good work, and we hope a time will come that whenever the people's money is spent for books, a part of this will go for the purchase of books of that branch of the useful arts which deals with the questions of how to cure, prevent and eventually exterminate disease.

4. Statistics of Libraries and Library Legislation in the United States. Washington, 1897.

MEDICAL LIBRARIES BIBLIOGRAPHY.

I.

By GRACE W. MYERS.

NEW YORK MEDICAL RECORD, VOL. 4, OCT. 15, 1869, P. 384.

Library of the American Medical Association.—Containing resolution of the American Medical Association to establish, at Washington, D. C., a Library, or Repository, of American Medical Works. Offer of the Librarian of Congress to receive such a collection as a special deposit, and to care for it in the government building. Appeal made for contributions.

NEW YORK MEDICAL RECORD, VOL. 6, MAY 15, 1871, P. 136.

Elliot Library of the Medical Library and Journal Association of New York.—Named for the late Dr. George T. Elliot,

President of the Medical Society of the County of New York, who died in the early part of 1871. Article contains account of subscriptions raised for the establishment of the Library.

NEW YORK MEDICAL RECORD, VOL. 7, MAY 15, 1872, P. 202.

National Medical Library.—Contains proposition and urges necessity for such an institution; to be under the care of the library of the Surgeon-General's Office at Washington D. C.

NEW YORK MEDICAL RECORD, VOL. 7, JULY 1, 1872, P. 287.

Libraries in New York City.—Gives number of volumes contained in the various libraries.

THE LUZERNE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY.

Dr. Lewis H. Taylor kindly sent in the following notes:

The Luzerne County, (Pa.) Medical Library started in November, 1897, upon the removal of the society into new and enlarged quarters. The library at that time consisted of about 400 old books that had been donated from the library of Dr. Edward Mayer deceased. Upon removal of the society to its new rooms in the Anthracite Building an effort was at once made by the library committee to secure by donation and loan from its own members and elsewhere, accessions to the library.

The result was very gratifying and a large number of valuable sets of periodicals were received. In addition to gifts and permanent loans from its own members the society has been fortunate in securing valuable accessions from many sources, especially from the New York Academy of Medicine, the Association of Medical Librarians and Rhode Island Medical Society.

It has also received many donations from individuals. The library now has 2850 volumes, exclusive of pamphlets and unbound periodicals.

BOBBS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, INDIANAPOLIS.

Dr. A. W. Brayton, Chairman Library Committee sends the following information:

The Bobb's Memorial Library of the Indiana Medical College was designed and intended for the use of medical students. It now contains about one thousand dollars worth of books (all recent medical publications) which have been particularly selected to aid and assist the student body.

From time to time the faculty of the institution will certainly appropriate more monies so that in time this feature of our institution will grow in power and usefulness.

A MEDICAL LIBRARY IN ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Rochester Academy of Medicine has opened a medical library in conjunction with the Reynolds Public Library. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. John O. Roe, president of the academy and his associates, the library contains already 3500 volumes. The physicians of Rochester hope to own a home of their own in the near future where the library will be housed.

In the Reading Room.

THE MEDICAL BOOK NEWS.

The well known publishing house of P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut street, Philadelphia, has launched a new enterprise, the publication of a bi-monthly periodical devoted to the literature of medicine and allied sciences, containing lists of new books, reviews taken from prominent periodicals,

criticism, etc. The two numbers that have made their appearance (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2, July and September, 1902) fulfill admirably their mission of furnishing "information of use to medical men in selecting and purchasing books on medicine and allied science." Besides reviews of thirty books and numerous items of medico-literary interest, lists of all recent

and forthcoming publications, both American and English are appended. We admire the frank statement made in the first issue that *Medical Book News* "as a periodical, is largely by necessity in the class of advertisements." Such a mode of advertisements, however, not only does not offend good taste but on the contrary is positively useful. We predict for the *Medical Book News* a bright and useful career.

GESCHICHTE DER MEDICIN UND DER KRANKHEITEN. Bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. J. Pagel in Berlin. Sonder-Abdruck aus Virchow's Jahresbericht der Gesamten Medicin. 1901, Band 1.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an autograph-copy of the above reprint. This pamphlet of fifty pages contains a bibliography of the history of medicine and diseases for the year 1901 by Dr. J. Pagel, Professor of History of Medicine in the University of Berlin. It is classified as follows:

- I. Generalia, Bio-bibliography, Periodicals, Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.
- II. History of Medical Men and Medical Ethics.
- III. History of Medical Education in Universities, Medical Schools and Institutes, Hospitals, Societies and Periodicals.
- IV. History of the Civilized Peoples of the Orient.
- V. Medicine of Savages and Prehistoric Art of Healing.
- VI. Hebrew (postexilic) medicine.
- VII. Classical Medicine.
- VIII. Medicine of the Middle Ages.
- IX. Modern Medicine.
- X. Mathematics, Natural History, Biology, General Pathology including methods of physical examination.
- XI. Therapeutic, Dietetics, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Hydrotherapy, Balneology, Nursing.
- XII. Hygiene, Sanitation, State Medicine, Military Hygiene, Veterinary Medicine.
- XIII. Surgery, Orthopedics, Obstetrics and Care of the New-Born.
- XIV. Eye, Ear, Throat, Nose and Dentistry.
- XV. Epidemics, Internal Medicine, Children's Diseases.
- XVI. Skin and Venereal Diseases.
- XVII. Psychiatry and Nervous Diseases.
- XVIII. Mythological and Folk Medicine, Medical Mysticism, Curiosa, Varia, Women Physicians, Medicine in History, Literature and Art.
- XIX. Biographical, Necrology.
- XX. Obituary Notices;

The Activity of American writers in the above fields of research is well represented by such writers as Cutler

(Elbridge), Cahall, Dulles, Davis (N. S.), Flint, Friedenwald (Harry), Finlay, (C), Fisher (Henry M.), Kelley, Mumford, Osler, Packard, Rhodes, Thomas (T. G.), Tinker and others.

Of course we would not expect to find a complete record of all the articles of an historical nature that appeared in all the American medical periodicals. We miss for instance, Mitchell's *Medicine* in 1800, (*Alien. & Neurol.* April), Amberg's *Present Status of Physicians in the United States*, (*Bull. Am. Acad. Med.* Aug.) Ball's *Early American Medicine* (St. Louis, *M. & S.* 7. January); *History of Medicine in Colorado*, (*Colorado Medical Journal*), and a few others. But such omissions are certainly not due to the carelessness or oversight of the editor. It denotes simply the fact that the editor has access to but a few of the American medical periodicals.

We take pardonable pride in quoting what Prof. Pagel has to say concerning MEDICAL LIBRARIES: "Enthaelt zahlreiche Artikel zur med. Bibliothekstechnik, auf die wir hier nur summarisch hinweisen muessen, ohne die im einzelnen aufzaehlen zu koennen. Die Zeitschrift ist von hohem interesse und kennzeichnet die grandiositaet der Amerikanischen Verhaeltnisse auch auf diesem Gebiete."

A SYSTEM OF PHYSIOLOGIC THERAPEUTICS: A Practical Exposition of the Methods, other than drug-giving, useful in the prevention of diseases and in the treatment of the sick. Edited by Solomon Solis Cohen, A. M., M. D. Volume IX, Hydrotherapy, Thermotherapy, Heliotherapy and Phototherapy. By Dr. Wilhelm Winternitz Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Vienna. Assisted by Dr. Alois Strasser, Dr. B. Ruxbaum, and Balneology and Crounotherapy by Dr. Heinrich Kisch.

The editor of this system has conferred a favor upon the American profession in the happy choice of writers for the preceding volumes, the respective subjects of which have all been treated by eminent men. But "Winternitz on Hydrotherapy" means to have the best man for the task. In his lectures "Die Hydrotherapie auf Physiologischer und Klinischer Grundlage" published in 1876, Winternitz laid the cornerstone of modern scientific hydrotherapy, and it is therefore the father of this branch of therapeutics who opens the portals of the book by "fundamentals." Part first on Physiologic basis of Hydrotherapy is all meat. Every sentence represents

numerous experiments and years of experience. There are only 55 pages of "Fundamentals" but they represent 55 condensed volumes of 500 pages each. The second part by Strasser is devoted to the technic. The third part by Buxbaum treats of special hydrotherapy. His explanation of anemia in enteropneusts (p. 146) as bleeding into one's own vessels is novel and ingenious. The application of cold to the vertebral column in preference to precordium in exophthalmic goiter (p. 161) seems to be reasonable and should be tried. The effect of sunlight-heliotherapy, electrotherapy and thermotherapy are considered in a lucid manner by J. H. Kellogg. The contraindications to the sun bath in tuberculosis with decided febrile activity (p. 221) is a wise advice and should be heeded. Saline irrigations and infusions by Harvey Cushing, Balneology and Crounotherapy by Prof Kisch with notes for America by Guy Hinsdale and the Classification of Mineral Waters by A. C. Peale are all valuable. The "Appendix" by the editor is like the last touches given by the architect to a new edifice before it is handed over to the owner. Here a roughness is smoothed over there something was omitted or misplaced. Besides, Cohen must have all the latest improvements up to and including those of Dec. 31, 1901. The

"Index" is exemplary. One cannot pass in silence the excellence of the Englishing of the three first articles done by Eshner.

THE PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST. (Lindsay & Blakiston's) for 1903. 52d year, Philadelphia. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St. \$1.00

We notice two valuable additions in this edition: 1. Incompatibility-Chemic. Pharmaceutic and Therapeutic, and 2 Immediate Treatment of Poisoning. These two pages are as good as life-boats, and should be in the pocket of every physician in the land.

OPHTHALMIC LENSES. By Charles F. Prentice, M. E. Published by the Keystone, the Organ of the Jewelry and Optical Trades, 10th and Brown Sts., Philadelphia, 1901.

The aim of the book is "to guide the novice upon a path by which he may easily acquire a knowledge of lenticular refraction without recourse to mathematics." We are glad to say that the book represents a real contribution to optics. It does not cater to the graduates of correspondence schools in optics, to whom even the first page would look like hieroglyphics. The author's typoscope is certainly an ingenious invention, and there are several articles of high scientific interest in the book.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS After January 1, 1903, **MEDICAL LITERATURE** will be issued from 1421 Broadway, Denver, Colo.

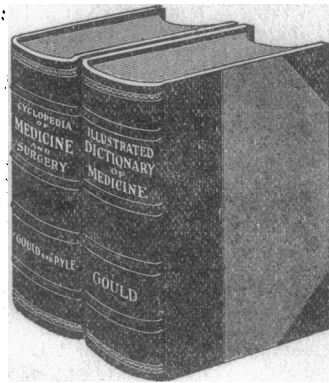
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Gould and Pyle's Illustrated Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine and Surgery.

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P. BLAKISTON'S SON & CO., Established 1848
Publishers Scientific and Medical Books, 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.