Collapse (Latin collabor, I fall down).—A complete prostration of strength, either at the commencement or in the progress of disease, or following any severe injury.

Coma (Greek koma, drowsiness; from keo, to lie).—Drowsiness; lethargic sleep; torpor.

Compress (Latin comprimere, to press together).

—Folded pieces of lint or rag, so contrived as, by aid of a bandage, to make due pressure upon a part.

Constipation (Latin constipare, to cram together).—A state of the bowels in which evacuations do not take place as frequently as usual, or are inordinately hard, and expelled with difficulty.

Counter-irritation (Latin contra-irritatio).— Irritation excited in one part of the body with the view of relieving one existing in another part.

Crisis (Greek krino, to decide).—A decision. An event, or period, which marks changes or terminations in disease.

Cupping (catacasmus; French couper, to cut, or to draw blood in vessels resembling cups).—A species of blood-letting performed by a scarificator and glass called the cupping glass.

Delirium (perhaps from de and lirei, a ridge between two furrows; but more probably from de and crema, a silly saying or action).—Wandering of the mind, straying from the rules of reason.

Desquamation (Latin de, from; squama, a scale).—Exfoliation or separation of the epidermis in the form of scales.

Diachylon (Greek dia chulos, very juicy).—The plaster of this name was formerly made of certain juices.

Diet (Greek diaita, regimen).—Originally this word signified nearly the same as hygiene and regimen. That is, diet was the employment of everything necessary for the preservation of health and life. At the present day it usually signifies a particular form of food and drink. A regulated diet, or allowance of food.

Disinfectant (Latin dis and inficio, infectum, in and facio, I infect).—Substances which destroy or render inert the contagium of any given disease.

Douche.—A cold affusion; a column or current of fluid directed to, or made to fall upon, some part of the body.

Drachm (Greek drachme, from drassomai, to grasp with the hand).—Literally a handful. The eighth part of an ounce.

Drainage Tubes. — India-rubber tubes, by means of which purulent fluids are drawn off from deep-seated abscesses, &c.

Draught (Past part. of Saxon opagan, to draw).—A single dose of medicine.

Draw-sheet.—A small sheet placed over the under-sheet on a bed, one end being just under

the pillow, and reaching half-way down the bed, which can be easily drawn out, and changed.

Dysphagia (Greek dus and phago, to eat).—Difficulty of swallowing.

Dyspnæa (Greek dus and pneo, I breathe).— Difficult respiration.

*Dysuria* (Greek dus and oureo, to make water).
—Difficulty in discharging the urine.

Embrocation (Greek embracho, to moisten).— Originally used in the sense of fomentation. A fluid application for rubbing any diseased part of the body.

Emetic (Greek emeo, to vomit).—A substance capable of producing vomiting.

Emplastrum (Greek emplastikos, I form, I spread upon).—A solid and tenacious compound, adhesive at the ordinary heat of the human body. A plaster.

Enema (Greek eniemi, I send in).—A liquid form of food or medicine thrown up into the bowel.

Epigastrium (Greek epi, upon; gaster, the stomach).—The superior region of the abdomen, comprised between the false ribs on each side, and extending from the lower surface of the diaphragm to two fingers' breadth above the umbilious.

Eruption (Latin erumpere, to break out).—The

appearance of spots on the skin.

Excrement (Latin ex and cernere, to separate, cleanse).—Everything which is evacuated from the body of an animal by natural emmitories as superfluous, as fæcal matters, urine, perspiration, nasal mucous, &c.

Exhaustion (Latin ex and haurire, to draw out).

—Loss of strength.

Expectoration (Latin ex putore, from the chest).

—The act of expelling from the chest matters or secretions collected or existing there. Also used for the expectorated matter.

Excision (Latin excisio, a cutting out; from excidere, to cut out by the roots).—Total extirpation of an articulation, or the entire removal of all the bones which form a joint with as much as possible of the capular ligament.

Expiration (Latin ex and spirare, to breathe out).—That part of respiration in which the air

is expelled from the lungs.

Exudation (ex and sudare, to sweat).—The oozing of a material from the pores of a membrane. The term is applied to the inflammatory lymph, or coagulable lymph, which is exuded from the blood-vessels during inflammation.

Extension (Latin extendere, to stretch out).—

A method of keeping a limb stretched out by

means of a pulley, weight, &c.

Extravasation (Latin extra, out of; vasa, vessels).—The escape of fluids from the vessels

previous page next page