

## PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

## A MEDICAL DICTIONARY FOR NURSES.\*

It is with genuine pleasure that we welcome "A Medical Dictionary for Nurses," by Miss Amy Elizabeth Pope, Instructor in the School of Nursing, St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco, as unquestionably the best book of its kind that has ever been published. Indeed we know of none which has even attempted to deal with the subject so thoroughly, and we most cordially congratulate Miss Pope, who is already well known to nurses, as an author of repute on professional subjects, on the high merit, and practical usefulness, of her latest book. It should rank as a classic for nurses, in the same way that Hobblyn's Dictionary of Medical Terms does for medical practitioners.

In her preface the author tells us that "The purpose of this book is to provide a medical dictionary containing a detailed definition of words and terms of special importance to nurses. To do this without making the book larger than seemed advisable, it was necessary to omit some words usually included in medical dictionaries, but those omitted are ones which nurses are not likely to look for, or which are similar to those contained in the book. In compiling the definitions a large number of the newer books on bacteriology, chemistry, physics, physiology and medicine were consulted." Indeed there is evidence that the latest information on subjects with which it is most important that nurses should be conversant, and which they will not find in the ordinary text books, is here available.

To take at random such words as "bath" and "rays." We find under the former word a complete list of the varieties of baths, the conditions for which they are prescribed, and the method of administration and the temperature at which they should be given. Under "rays" we have a terse description of the various rays employed in medical treatment, and in a description of the X-rays we read that they have power to effect chemical changes in a photographic plate, also that all bodies are transparent to the rays though in varying degree. Thus, if there is a bullet in the hand and the rays are turned upon it the flesh will show as a faint shadow, the bones will be more clearly defined, and the bullet still more so.

The book is clearly arranged and contains numerous illustrations. It should be in the library of every nurse-training school, and no nurse who secures a copy will willingly be without it.

The most important former book by Miss Pope is "Practical Nursing," in which she collaborated with Miss A. C. Maxwell. It is published by Messrs. Putnam's, as are also "A History of Nursing," by Miss L. L. Dock, and Miss M. A. Nutting (in four volumes), and Miss Dock's invaluable "Materia Medica for Nurses." Together they form for the nurse the basis of a professional library of exceptional excellence.

\*G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C. s. 6d. net.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

## WOMEN AND WAR.

The following is the patriotic and masterly dispatch of a little maid in reply to a proposal:—

"Dear Bob,—It you've listed, yes; if you ain't, no. Waiting reply straight.—LIZA."

We wonder if the services of this little General (with a big G) would not come in handy in some department of the War Office.

Women War victims are on the increase, especially amongst the gently bred, and to whatever committee they go they appear to be quietly "snuffed out." Can they scrub, wash, cook—will they work for 3d. an hour? No, they can't. Well, we are sorry but—and a highstepping young voluntary worker signifies that they are a decided superfluity in the economic scale of the hour. We wonder how many of these well fed (at rich men's expense) damsels could themselves earn even 3d. an hour with the kit brush, at the wash tub, or over the oven! As for their fussy patronage, it is as offensive to the sensitive as a cut with a whip. It is high time silly experiments for providing women with work they cannot do were stopped, and some of the money so generously given to Queen Mary's Fund and others, was just used to warm and comfort some of these gentle middle-aged women, now derelict owing to the War. Whilst wealthy women and representatives of trades unions are fussing over the "difficulty of the problem" of which they have no personal experience, professional workers are starving, and the dictum of highly paid men "that ten shillings a week is enough for any woman to live on," is a deeply rooted conviction in the mind of many an employer, excluding of course "his own" women, and the dependents who minister to his personal comfort. The lesson of course which women must learn is to organize and to administer co-operative funds. With very few exceptions they have permitted their State Insurance societies to drift into the hands of men, who hold all the highly paid posts for which the women pay.

Then we find wealthy peers and parsons joining forces to prevent allowances to soldiers' "illegal" wives being paid, unless with insult, during their absence at the front, where these men suffer untold misery, making it possible for bishops and other "Christian" lights to toast their toes in comfort at home.

During a discussion on "Morals and Manners" at the Southwark Diocesan Conference, Canon Deedes commented on the fact that separation allowances were made for the relief of women who were not the legal wives of soldiers, and said the new Order appeared to him to place marriage and concubinage practically on a level in the eyes of the administrators of our public funds.

He recognised that there existed the need to deal with such cases, but they should be dealt with under some different scheme from that by which

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