

## MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES.

By LOIS OAKES, S.R.N., D.N., and  
ARNOLD BENNETT, M.P.S.\*

It is the case that technical books on Nursing Education are numerous, from which the student nurse may take her choice, but in the steady advance of science and research by which new discoveries and methods are ever being evolved, such publications all too soon become out of date.

It will therefore be welcome news to Sister Tutors and Student Nurses that a second edition of "Materia Medica for Nurses"—in which the text of the first edition has been revised and new chapters have been added dealing with many new drugs and compounds (including the Sulphonamides and Penicillin)—has been issued by Lois Oakes, S.R.N., D.N., and Arnold Bennett, M.P.S.

The subject throughout this admirable book is compiled in a simple and concise manner. The introduction clearly sets forth the fundamental principles to be observed in the administration of drugs, giving much practical detail—including preparation of the medicine tray, etc., and the dangers of cumulative action, to be noticed.

In Chapter II the three systems of weights and measures in use in the British Isles—are dealt with in detail in which calculations are clearly simplified and we quote the following: The metric system of weights and measures originated in France and has been adopted by many countries for purposes of trade and commerce.

The English-speaking countries are almost the only progressive ones in which this system is not in common use.

In the scientific world, however, the metric system is used universally, and it was made legal in this country by the passing of the Weights and Measures (Metric system) Act, 1897.

When the metric system was adopted by the French in 1791, it was intended to have a natural and invariable standard from which all other values could be recovered if the physical standard was by accident lost or damaged, and it was decided to take as the value of the metre the ten-millionth part of the distance of the earth's surface from the Pole to the Equator.

In further chapters pertaining to "The Prescription" and on "Posology"—the table on the latter subject—of doses proportionate to age—is wonderfully simplified for the student.

Turning to "Penicillin," a new subject added to this edition, its curative properties and its method of application is explained, as also is the importance of its careful distribution. "The distribution of Penicillin and preparations containing it is governed by the Control of Penicillin (No. 1) Order, 1946, which limits the acquisition or disposal of this material to authorised persons. Doctors, dentists, pharmacists, authorised sellers of poisons, 'listed distributors' and hospitals may acquire and dispose of Penicillin. Apart from these classes the acquisition is limited to (a) a person undergoing treatment by a doctor or dentist; (b) a person for whom an 'approved prescription' which must bear: (1) The name of the patient; (2) the signature of the prescriber, and (3) a stated weight or measure of the prescribed substance, has been written by a doctor or dentist; (c) a person acquiring the substance from a Government department or a hospital or under licence from the Minister of Supply."

Space precludes further quotation of this excellent edition of "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Lois Oakes and Arnold Bennett, and the authors are to be congratulated on this contribution to nursing literature.

A. S. B.

\* E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd., 16 and 17, Tsviot Place, Edinburgh.

## THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH.

NURSES' PRIZE GIVING, MAY 21st, 1947.

On May 21st His Grace the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Mr. George Mathers, M.P., paid his annual visit to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh accompanied by Mrs. Mathers and members of their suite. After visiting wards in the Royal Infirmary and the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion they attended the Nurses' Prize Giving. Her Grace presented the prizes. Mrs. Mathers spoke of the world wide reputation of the hospital with its tradition of service, and Mr. Mathers, in congratulating the Prize winners, said that whatever changes lay ahead the standard of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh as a centre of healing would never be lowered.

The principal prize winners were Miss Mary F. White, who gained the "Affleck" Medal for "Distinction in Nursing." Miss J. Yeoman was *proxime accessit* to the medallist. Miss H. McLeod won the prize presented by the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Nurses' League for the best all round previously trained nurse. Miss J. S. Kelly received the "Affleck" special prize for Medical Nursing and Miss G. J. K. Reid was the winner of the "Annie Warren Gill" Memorial Prize for the Theory and Practice of Dietetics.

## WHAT TO READ.

## MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Tragedy Triumphant." Ruth Darley.

## FICTION.

"The Golden Rooms." Vardis Fisher.

"The Chequer Board." Nevil Shute.

"An Avenue of Stone." Pamela Hansford Johnson.

"Winds of Chance." Dale Collins.

"The Three Isles." Ruby Spence.

"Rapture of the Sea." Beryl Moore.

"Honour's a Mistress." Naomi Jacob.

"Painted Clay." Clare Emsley.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

"Events and Shadows." The Rt. Hon. the Lord Vansittart, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.Litt., LL.D.

"Where are we Heading?" Sumner Welles.

"A Short History of Chinese Civilization." Tsui Chi, with a Preface by Laurence Binyon.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.  
Durban, South Africa.

April 28th, 1947.

DEAR MADAM,—Please find enclosed P.O. 7s. being my subscription for BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING from March, 1947. Will you please convey to the staff of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses my deep sympathy in the passing of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

I only knew her through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, having been a constant subscriber since 1915, and I realise what an outstanding leader she has been.

Much as we shall all miss her, we cannot grudge her rest after many years of fighting for nurses.

Yours faithfully,

H. Tong, S.R.N., S.C.M.

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