

Many other recipes for various shades of colour are given, and there must have been in early days a vast number of these plant-colours in use, if we may judge from the amount of delicate and lovely tints which are to be seen in the wonderful "Book of Kells," supposed to date from the eighth century, and now in the library of Trinity College, Dublin. A collection of recipes for these and other stains would be very interesting in explanation of the illumination-tints of the Anglo-Saxon period.

The remainder of MS. (A), as well as the whole of the three others—Harl. MS. (B), 2378; Sloane, 2584 (C); and Sloane, 521 (D), consist mainly of medical recipes similar in character to the "Leechdoms."

These have comparatively little interest in modern medicine except as literary curiosities, for it is remarkable how very few English plants remain as "survivals of the fittest" in the Pharmacopœia. Amongst this small number may be named *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Conium maculatum*, *Papaver somniferum*, *Spartium scoparium*, used for *staunching blood*, and not for the same purpose as in the present day; mugwort or wormwood, *Artemisia*, of which three species are given in the "Leechdoms," as well as in Prof. Earle's book. Besides these there are but few others in Mr. Henslow's list which have much value at the present time. It is not a little strange to find how almost completely English plants have been superseded in modern medicine by newly-invented compounds or by drugs imported from other countries, and it is to be regretted that more careful observation and trial of British plants are not made, as doubtless others might be discovered of marked value, as has been the case with *Convallaria* and *Taxus*.

Following the MSS. is a list of the medical and other plants of the fourteenth century, which is a model of its kind, containing all plant-names alphabetically arranged, the scientific names with which they have been identified, and the Old English sources from which they have been derived, reference being made to the page and line in each instance. If a book could be written on the same plan, including all the early English works, such as the "Leechdoms" and other similar writings, it would be of great value both to Anglo-Saxon scholars and to botanists, and would be an immense saving of trouble to the reading public, who would be under great obligations if so able an authority as Prof. Henslow would undertake the task.

There are singularly few exceptions which can be made to the present list; but it might be well under *Cyclamen*, which Earle gives as *Orbicularis* or "*Slite*," to note that the English word is omitted in it.

Gaytre, without much apparent reason (except the mention of *Cornel* in Chaucer, who, though he also speaks of "*Galtre-berries*," does not sufficiently identify them), referred to *Cornus sanguinea*. Might it not perhaps as fairly be assigned to the Gueldre rose, *Viburnum opulus*, a more harmless and edible fruit, of the *Sambucus* family?

It does not appear that *Cockel*, *Lolium temulentum*, is correctly referred to (A) 21¹⁸.

One cannot part with this book without a word or two on the excellent style in which it is sent out. The binding and type, especially that of the specimen page of the MS., are attractive.

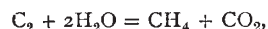
NO. 1534, VOL. 59]

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Chemistry of Coke. By O. Simmersbach; translated &c. by W. C. Anderson. Pp. viii + 159. (Glasgow and Edinburgh: William Hodge and Co., 1899.)

THIS excellent little work is a translation by Mr. W. Carrick Anderson of Simmersbach's "Grundlagen der Kokschemie," containing several important additions, notably a chapter on the methods employed for the examination and analysis of coal and coke. The work is rendered more valuable than most technical books of this character by the references, which make it a fairly complete bibliography of the subject. In a future edition it would be well to devote a special chapter to gas coke, which now only receives an occasional and inadequate mention, whilst a summary of the processes for the recovery of the bye-products of coke ovens would be a welcome addition to readers who do not possess Lunge's standard work on the subject.

The work is well and carefully done, whilst the statements made are mostly fully supported by the evidence adduced. On p. 76, however, the loss of carbon during quenching is represented by the equation



this statement being apparently made on the authority of an analysis by Frankland, who found in the gases evolved from Derbyshire coke and steam 56.9 per cent. of combustible gas, which he returns as a mixture of hydrogen and methane; but if Mr. Anderson analyses the gas produced under these conditions, he will find that the methane is a mere trace, and manifestly not produced in the way indicated by his equation.

The book can be heartily recommended to all interested in the manufacture and application of coke.

Class Book of Physical Geography. By Wm. Hughes, F.R.G.S. New edition, revised by R. A. Gregory, F.R.A.S. Pp. 328 + viii. (London: George Philip and Son, 1899.)

SO much alteration in arrangement and text has been made in this new and enlarged edition of Prof. Hughes' well-known class book that it is practically a new work. In all directions we note additional matter which seems well adapted to meet modern requirements, and many new illustrations of exceptional merit have been introduced. A clear and comprehensive account is now given of the earth as a member of the solar system, and of the methods of ascertaining its form and size, as well as the positions of points upon its surface. The treatment of the various physical features of the earth is both clear and complete, and moreover is bright enough to make the subject attractive even to the general reader. Among the subjects which merit special mention are eclipses, winds, and climate, the first-named being illustrated by some excellent diagrams. The book has greatly gained in value in the hands of the present editor, and we confidently recommend it to the notice of pupil teachers and others interested in the subject.

English-French Dictionary of Medical Terms. By H. De Méric. Pp. vi + 394. (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, 1899.)

THIS dictionary, in which the French equivalent is given for words and terms used in English medical science will be particularly valuable to French practitioners and students of medicine. The dictionary has been prepared upon a comprehensive plan, and includes, in addition to purely medical words, other words used in pathology, surgery, anatomy, and physiology, and also biological, botanical and zoological words met with in medical literature generally. The second part of the work (French-English), completing the dictionary, will appear shortly.