can scarcely speak so highly of the short account of the groups of the official galenical preparations. The information here given is very incomplete and bald, and might, we think be considerably extended with much advantage. The present edition is well up to date, and includes an account of the drugs recently added to the Pharmacopœia.

Catechism Series: Materia Medica. Parts I and II. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1891.

WE can find very little to say in recommendation of this work, or of the class of books to which it obviously belongs. There is, unfortunately, some apparent demand for such productions, and so long as glibness and readiness at the examination table are the passports to the enchanted land—the land of the “qualified”—so long will certain classes of students place their faith in “grinds.” There is no author’s name on the title-page of this work, and yet it is not a thing to be entirely ashamed of. Of its kind it is fairly good, and might conceivably be of some service to a student on the eve of an examination.

Notes on the Additions made to the British Pharmacopœia, 1891. By FREDERICK T. ROBERTS, M.D., &c. London: H. K. Lewis. 1891.

THESE notes are prepared on the lines of the author’s well known *Officinal Materia Medica*, and contain a well arranged presentation of the pharmacopœial facts regarding the valuable new drugs recently made official. They should be serviceable to the practitioner who wishes to prescribe intelligently, as well as to the student.

Ointments and Oleates, especially in Diseases of the Skin. By JOHN V. SHOEMAKER, A.M., M.D. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis. 1890.

WE can scarcely imagine any one whom this work is likely to interest. It gives, after a short discussion of ointments in general, a conspectus of those found in the *United States Pharmacopœia*, the *British*, *German*, *French*, *Austrian*, *Italian*, *Spanish*, *Mexican*, and *Chilian Pharmacopœias*. Many of these are curiosities in their way, such as the Spanish

Ungüento de Artánita Compuesto, which contains sixteen ingredients, one of which again contains six constituents—twenty-one in all! The second part of this volume is of some real value, but is simply a reproduction of the author's well known paper on the Oleates. The book, as a whole, strongly suggests deliberate book-making.

Foods and Dietaries: a Manual of Clinical Dietetics. By R. W. BURNET, M.D., Physician to the Great Northern Central Hospital. London: Charles Griffin & Co. 1890.

THIS book is the outcome of its author's habit of writing out dietaries for his patients. It is not merely, however, a collection of sick *menus*. The various diseases are first discussed in so far as their symptoms and pathological conditions influence the dietary, and the way having thus been paved, suggested dietaries are given, with full details as to the quantities of food to be taken and the hours at which food is to be administered. In addition, alcohol, predigested foods, and sick-room cookery receive consideration.

We think that there is room for a work of this sort; medical men are so often ill-informed as to foods and cookery as to be unable to suggest those little delicacies that tempt the palate of a sick man. To some extent this volume supplies the want. But we confess to a slight feeling of disappointment following our perusal of it, and we would suggest that, if a second edition be called for, the author should devote less space to general remarks, and give more alternative diet schemes.

Epilepsy: its Pathology and Treatment. By H. A. HARE, M.D. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis. 1890.

THE little book before us is chiefly a *résumé* and discussion of the opinions of a large number of authors—American, English, and Continental—on the subject of epilepsy, and the diseases allied to or resembling it. Our author reveals a very wide and cosmopolitan extent of reading, so that the book forms a very fair index of the modern writers on the subject; from this very fact, or from the material thus acquired not being sufficiently digested and assimilated, the result shows a want of cohesion, is rather scrappy in character, and therefore not such pleasant reading as it might be.