State Board Questions and Answers

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by
R. MAX GOEPPEL, M. D.

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STATE BOARD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BY

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The second edition, which appeared two years ago, was considerably enlarged by the addition of a number of questions bearing on certain subjects which have assumed importance during the last few years, such as serology and, particularly, serum and bacterin therapy, for which the field is steadily widening, both in diagnosis and treatment; chemotherapy and the recent innovations in the treatment of syphilis; tropical disorders and other diseases caused by animal parasites; and, finally, the newer cardiac physiology and the graphic methods of studying the phenomena of the circulation. These subjects have been still further developed during the past two years, and some additions, as well as corrections, were found necessary even here.

On the other hand, a fairly systematic perusal of recent lists of State Board questions failed to yield much new material which had not already been covered. Some new questions have, to be sure, been added in deference to the number of different lists in which they appeared, or because it was found that they were repeated at short intervals in the same or practically the same form. While some questions have thus been selected from the lists in a quasi mechanical manner, the author has also allowed his critical faculty to guide him to a certain extent in the work of sifting the material that presents itself year after year. State Board examiners exhibit a commendable change of method in the direction of greater simplicity and conciseness in framing their questions, and in some places the pruning-hook accordingly seemed a more useful instrument than the grafting-knife, with the result that some superfluous material has been eliminated from the book. This is especially true of materia medica, in which the omissions approximately balance the necessary additions.

That many new questions in the lists were rejected altogether it is hardly necessary to state, while some were modified before their incorporation in order to bring them into harmony with current terminology and classification. The pernicious and pedantic practice still occasionally indulged in by some examiners of mystifying the student by employing either obsolete or unfamiliar terms instead of those in current use—in