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With the publication of this volume, the British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice is brought to completion. Since the publication of Volume I, the work has been acknowledged as unique in form amongst medical publications, and the Publishers confidently believe that this comprehensive index will form a fitting conclusion to it.

When the British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice was first projected, it was designed that the many articles on every branch of Medicine of which it is composed should be so dove-tailed together by means of cross-references that the whole would be readily accessible. The Editor-in-Chief and the Advisory Board have kept this aim steadily in view throughout the publication of the work ; but it was felt that, when the volumes of text were published, it would be necessary to provide practitioners with a complete index to the whole work. Each volume has its own Index ; but the complete index groups together, under appropriate headings, the various references to any particular subject appearing throughout the Encyclopaedia.

The first considerations in the construction of the index have been those of "readiness of reference" and "completeness of detail". The principle adopted throughout has been to collect detailed references under the headings most probably in the minds of the practitioner and the consultant, so that no time will be wasted in considering under which heading they should search for the required information, and so that the volume or volumes and the pages on which the point to which they desire to refer become immediately apparent.

The index has been prepared by Dr. Charles Shaw Bond, with the assistance of the Medical Librarians whose names appear on the sub-title page, and has undergone the same thorough process of editorial revision at the hands of the Editor-in-Chief, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., and his Editorial Assistants, as has been the case with the volumes of text.

It is hoped that subscribers to the British Encyclopaedia of Medical Practice will find in this volume an Index worthy of the labours of the Editor-in-Chief, of his Advisory Board and of the many contributors, which have resulted in the publication of this authoritative work.

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