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*Gemma mullin*

13, NORHAM GARDENS,  
OXFORD.

Inclosure to go to the Hon. Secy. Dublin,

Clerk General of W.P. note to

his knowledge in review of xx. of Dublin Club  
1916

The Index Catalogue of the Surgeon - Generals  
Library

1916

Vol. <sup>new</sup> V, ~~XXI~~, just received in England,  
 complete - the second series of this monu-  
 mental work in medical bibliography.  
 Issued year by year since 1880 ~~a volume has~~  
~~been issued~~, and the 37 volumes bear  
 a golden testimony to the sustained literary  
 organization of the Office of the Surgeon General  
 of the United States Army. It was one thing  
 to conceive in the mind of the late Dr  
 Hiltner, this lofty project, <sup>and quite another</sup> ~~but~~ to carry  
 it ~~through~~ <sup>out</sup> so thoroughly, so regularly, &  
 at so uniformly high level of merit. No  
 bibliographical task of the same magni-  
 tude has been attempted <sup>in the profession</sup>, and no society  
 or group of private individuals could have  
 undertaken it with any hope of success.  
 Successive Surgeons General, and Librarians  
 took a justifiable pride in promoting this  
 great work, and we may offer our  
 hearty congratulations to the present Surgeon  
 General, Dr Gorgas, & to the Librarian Dr  
 C. C. McCulloch on the completion of the  
 second series, and on the promise  
 of ~~the~~ continuance of the Index Catalogue  
 in a third series. The writer possesses  
 the tiny interleaved catalogue issued  
 by the Library in May 1864, from which modest  
 beginnings this vast record of the medical

literature of the world has evolved.

The profession scarcely realizes the value of the literary knowledge contained in each one of these volumes. Take for example, the present one. There is a catalogue of the medical periodicals of the world - 233 papers, & probably a unique list! The alphabetical contents extend from water-worth (Waltham) to Zysman. The bibliography of individual subjects is well up to date and the writers of papers might very well spare us the long bibliographies by and simply refer to the Index Catalogue, Series I & II & the Index Medicus. The 30 or so references to Webers Syndrome give the pathology & symptoms in the titles - and then - the literature of Webers Law and of Webers test, admit some eight columns of titles of papers testify to the versatility, industry and exceptional clinical experience of another Weber - Frederick H. Parkes. How much the interest in Webers disease has extended since is shown by a long list of papers from the title of which again we may read the current views on the etiology. John Wesley's subject Primitive Phlegm has half a dozen references but one has to turn to his name in Series I to find that his

manuscript passed through twenty seven

editions. A glance at the titles of the monographs and <sup>the</sup> journals articles of a common disease such as whooping-cough gives one a good idea of the great work with which the profession works at its unsolved problems.

~~I would undertake to write a critical review of the progress of knowledge during the past years could be written from the 18 p.p. devoted to the subject.~~

Of special value ~~of the kind~~ <sup>are the bio-</sup>ographical references <sup>winning and dead</sup> gives to the author the dates of birth & death <sup>and</sup> a list of the journal articles & where a portrait of any <sup>is to be formed.</sup>

In <sup>the</sup> library the old & the new are of equal importance, and we limit Thomas Willis to find that since 16 <sup>some</sup> 14 editions of his works have been added, and there are many additional biographical references. A few pages further on we meet with a

new ~~disease~~ malady - Wilson's disease & an endeavor to find ~~so many~~ <sup>that</sup> as sixteen authors (including S. A. K. Wilson himself) are referred to. This & traversing the amount of our way information we meet with. turning the pages as I write