

D.K. Bowden, Medical dictionary in Bislama, English and French, Clayton, Victoria: privately published by the author, 1986. Pp. ix + 398. \$19.95(?)

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This dictionary is "a compilation of Bislama words and phrases in common use in the hospitals and dispensaries of Vanuatu" (vii), and is thus intended primarily as a reference work for doctors and nurses working in that country. The major section of the dictionary (1-238) consists of alphabetically arranged English medical terms with their equivalents in French and either direct equivalents or appropriate descriptive phrases in Bislama. This is followed by shorter "index"-type lists of French-English (240-291) and Bislama-English (294-328), a comparative list English-Bislama-Tok Pisin-Solomons Pijin (330-372), and three short sections on common complaints, taking a medical history, and common instructions during a medical examination.

Although Bowden says "there is no standard Bislama orthography" (vii), he uses the spelling system most commonly in use in Vanuatu (e.g *ae* and *ao* for what in Tok Pisin are represented as *ai* and *au*). His guide to pronunciation is necessarily brief, and clearly directed at the medical practitioner who needs to use the language, rather than to the linguist. Interestingly, it contains brief instructions as to how to convert an English word into Bislama pronunciation in cases where there is no Bislama term available.

The first section suffers slightly from having the English and French entries on one page and the Bislama equivalents on the facing page, and although it is hard to see how else it could have been arranged, it is not always simple to read. Otherwise the layout is quite clear, and the work is remarkably free of typographical errors, although in my copy at least pp. 36 and 37 did not get printed.

As a specialist dictionary, with a particular purpose or clientele, it appears to be a useful contribution. Certainly, it would be an invaluable reference work for any expatriate medical practitioner in Vanuatu.