

Book Reviews

THE ART OF DISPENSING. A Treatise on the Methods and Processes Involved in Compounding Medical Prescriptions, with Dictionaries of Abbreviations and Terms used in British and Foreign Prescriptions, Incompatibles and New Remedies, and Numerous Memoranda for Dispensers and Prescribers. By Peter MacEwan, F. C. S., Editor of *The Chemist and Druggist*. Ninth Edition. Cloth; 584 p; 6S.4d. *The Chemist and Druggist*, 42 Cannon St., London, E. C., Eng.

The first edition of this, the standard work on prescription practice in Great Britain, appeared in 1888, and contained 288 pages; the present revised and enlarged edition contains 584 pages.

After introductory chapters dealing with the general principles of dispensing and compounding, weights and measures, special drugs and dispensing conveniences, etc., the work takes up the solid forms of medicine, as pills, pellets, lozenges, pastilles, capsules, powders, suppositories, bougies and pessaries; then deals with the more or less semi-solid preparations, as ointments, plasters, pastes and jellies. Treatment of liquid medicines is begun with a chapter on mixtures, and is followed by chapters on emulsions, lotions, injections, ampoules, embrocations, liniments, sprays and inhalations.

The main portion of the text is followed by fairly complete and well balanced chapters on incompatibilities, foreign prescriptions, and a dictionary of terms used in French, German, Dutch Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese and Spanish prescriptions.

The chapter on New and Unofficial Remedies fills 58 pages, in double column, and furnishes information and dispensing notes on over seven hundred articles.

The work as a whole not only presents a resumé of the best prescription practice in Great Britain, but is almost equally useful for American dispensers and students.

J. H. BEAL.

A TREATISE ON COMMERCIAL PHARMACY. Intended as a reference book and text book for pharmacists and their clerks. By D. Charles O'Connor; 408 pages, cloth, with numerous illustrations and plates. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$2.50 net.

The stereotyped "filling a long-felt want," may be justly applied to the above volume. Avowedly written from the commercial standpoint, it emphasizes the business side of pharmacy. It is written in a catholic spirit, however, and gives much wholesome advice respecting the professional and scientific side of the pharmacist's calling.

The idea of the book is to recognize existing conditions, and to set forth such plans and methods as will best enable the druggist to successfully grapple with the trade problems which are forced upon him.

The principal divisions are: Finance, Planning and Arranging of Business, Present and Future Problems, Thorough Knowledge of Business, Business Econ-