

Book Reviews

DIGEST OF COMMENTS ON THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Eighth Decennial Revision) AND ON THE NATIONAL FORMULARY (Third Edition) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1910. By Murray Galt Motter and Martin I. Wilbert. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1912. Hygienic Laboratory, Bulletin No. 84. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service of the United States.

Only a few months have elapsed since Bulletin No. 78, containing the "Digest of Comments" for 1909 has been published, a review of which was given in THE JOURNAL A. Ph. A., May, pp. 405-408, from the standpoint of the food and drug chemist, of the teacher and scientist, and of the retail pharmacist.

The present volume, the sixth of the series of "Digests," was published in May, 1912, and on 784 pages contains the comments on U. S. P. VIII and N. F. III, including also the comments immediately preceding and following the U. S. P. Convention in Washington, May 10, 1910. The arrangement of the book is an excellent one, as has already been described in a review of the "Digest" for 1909 on page 407 of the May number of THE JOURNAL A. Ph. A. The writer might be permitted to point out that under Nonpharmacopœial Standards the proposed "Recipe Book" of the A. Ph. A. is mentioned in title as well as in three comments on page 113.

In the list of Pharmacopœias and Nonofficial Standards, on page 19, we find that the British Pharmaceutical Codex, London, 1911, is given. Inasmuch as the "Digest" is for the year 1910 and inasmuch as the second edition of the B. P. Cx. was not published until October, 1911, we are of the opinion that the first edition, 1907, is the one which should have been referred to. We also notice that the preface of the "Digest" mentions the second edition of the Greek Pharmacopœia, which work, however, is not mentioned under the "title abbreviations" on page 19. Strictly speaking there is no such work, as the excellent dispensatory or "Pharmakopolia," by Prof. A. K. Dambergis, of Athens, has taken its place and has been made official. The writer, who happened to have the second edition, published in 1910, in his library had occasion to mention this in the symposium on the pharmacopœias of the world, held at the Richmond meeting of the A. Ph. A. (Proc., Vol. 58, p. 1135.)

The compilers of the "Digest," Messrs. Motter and Wilbert, are not responsible for the spelling of the word "sirup" in place of the pharmacopœial title "syrup," the former being given by Webster's International Dictionary, which governs the style of the Government Printing Office. Is this also true of the word "niter," instead of "nitre," in "sweet spirit of niter," which occurs several times on page 723?

It will undoubtedly be of interest to chemists and pharmacists, who are actively engaged in clinical laboratory investigations, to learn that the chapter on

"Clinical tests" occupies 20 pages and deals with urine, faeces, gastric contents, blood, sputum, stains, culture media, biologic methods and Wassermann reaction.

The compilers, as well as the Hygienic Laboratory, are to be complimented on the series of "Digests" which throw so much light on pharmaceutical problems. These publications have become indispensable to teacher and scientist, to analytical and manufacturing chemist, and to wholesale and quite especially to retail pharmacists.

We would therefore advise the members of the A. Ph. A. to procure a copy of Bulletin No. 84 and not only give same a place in their library, but to make frequent use of the book, which is a true digest of comments on pharmaceutical problems during 1910.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

VACATION TIME.

More than almost any other class of business men the druggist seems to think that he cannot get away to take a vacation. There is no exception to the rule that all men need a vacation every year and that all will do more and better work fifty weeks in a year than fifty-two. In all probability the average man would do more work if he worked but eleven months a year than he does working twelve. The vacation that is omitted this year may not bring its corresponding reduction in working value at once. It may not result in any diminution of capacity this year, or even next. But it is certain that any engine, human or mechanical, that is run year in and year out without stopping for repairs, will not last anywhere near as long or do anything like the total amount of work that it would do if properly cared for. We believe that there are among our readers not more than a negligible number who would not be better off the first of next January if they were to take two weeks or a month now to recuperate. A man does not waste time when he spends it in a vacation. Beside the value of the change itself, he comes in contact with new forces, with new people and he gets new ideas and new impressions. He goes away with a feeling that his business is a hard uphill fight. He comes back filled with new plans and methods and with the energy to carry them out.—*American Druggist*.