

President of South Carolina College. For a time Priestley and Cooper shared a home in Northumberland, Pa. Cooper's name does not appear on the list of Oxford Graduates—he balked at reciting the creed and refused to subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles. Priestley was a preacher. Cooper attacked the Administration of President John Adams; he was tried under the Alien and Sedition Acts, received a 6 months' imprisonment and was fined \$400. This was not his only conflict with law. Later, he became professor of chemistry in Dickinson College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, South Carolina College; all along the line he experienced troubles for opinions' sake. In 1834, he resigned as President of the latter institution and from then to the time of his death was engaged in editing

and publishing the statutes of South Carolina. He was judge, scientist, author, editor.

POPULAR SCIENTIFIC PUBLIC LECTURES.

Popular scientific lectures—open to the public at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science—for November and December, are as follows: "Chemistry in and about the Home," by Prof. Freeman S. Stroup. November 20th Dean J. W. Sturmer will speak on "Chemistry and Color." The lecture on December 4th will be given by Ralph R. Foran on "The Mineral and Vegetable Resources of the Sea"; Dean Charles H. LaWall will speak on "The Romance of Chemistry," December 18th.

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO RECOVER PATENTS BEFORE APPEALS COURT IN PHILADELPHIA.

The effort of the U. S. Government to recover German dye patents seized during the war and sold to the Chemical Foundation, Inc., has been brought before the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

SENTIMENT GROWING IN OHIO FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF SALE OF ALCOHOLICS IN PHARMACIES.

A survey just completed by the Ohio Pharmaceutical Association, according to Secretary Theo. D. Wetterstroem, shows that sentiment is growing among the druggists of that State in favor of discontinuing the sale of alcoholic liquors and leaving the dispensing of liquor entirely in the hands of the government. Agitation in favor of government dispensaries is deterred by the belief that they are not practicable, this belief being based on the results of experiments made by a southern state a few years ago, and also because their establishment might lead to the creation of another department of the government with its attendant expense.

Members of Ohio Board of Pharmacy are making preparations for the 3-year pharmacy course as prerequisite for State Board examinations.

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PHARMACY APPROVES THREE-YEAR COURSE.

The New Jersey Board of Pharmacy has adopted the requirement of a 3-year course in

pharmacy as a prerequisite for State Board Examinations, to become effective in 1925.

FIGHTING THE FAKES.

The Missouri Board of Pharmacy has started a campaign to rid the state of Missouri of fake drug stores. The first stroke yielded fifteen criminal indictments against the fakers. The federal and state prohibition and anti-narcotic squads are coöperating with the board, because it has been found that these saloonists posing as druggists violate every sort of a law that stands in the way of their getting the people's money. The Kansas City Retail Druggists' Association is doing its full part in helping to secure evidence and in bringing pressure to bear wherever it will help to effect a thorough cleaning-up of the drug-store situation. A number of licenses have been revoked.

AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE NARCOTIC CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

Representative Stephen G. Porter will again head the American delegation to the International Conference for the Control of Narcotics which is now meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Other members of the delegation are: Bishop Charles E. Brent of New York, Dr. Rupert Blue, Mrs. Elizabeth Washburn Wright, and Edwin L. Neville.

The conference, under the auspices of the League of Nations, opened November 3; this was a precursor to the conference now in session. The United States was represented at the former by Edwin L. Neville, as spectator;

the nations participating are: Great Britain, China, France, India, Japan, Holland, Portugal and Siam. Sao-Ke Alfred Sze, Chinese Minister at Washington, represented China. M. Van Wettum, of Holland, President of the league's advisory committee on the traffic in opium, was elected President of the conference, while Prince Charoon, Siamese Minister at Paris, was elected Vice-President.

On November 3, the Chinese delegation received a cablegram from the Chinese national anti-opium association at Shanghai, urging it to fight for rigid curtailment of opium production to strict medical requirements and declaring that the Chinese people as a whole were eagerly desirous of having the opium traffic abolished.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The Plant Alkaloids. By Thomas Anderson Henry, D. Sc., Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, London. Second Edition, with 8 Plates, pp. 456. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia, 1924.

Ten years have elapsed since the well-known work by Dr. Henry on *The Plant Alkaloids* was first published and in the meantime many important contributions have been made to the knowledge of this class of compounds. It is therefore a source of much satisfaction that a new edition of the work has been made available. In the present edition much new material has been incorporated, consideration having been given to the constitution of many of the alkaloids and also to such information as at present exists regarding the correlation of their chemical constitution and physiological action.

The subject-matter of the work has been classified so far as possible with reference to the constitution of the alkaloids, and the most expedient arrangement for this purpose has been considered to be their division into such groups as contain respectively the (1) pyrrole, (2) pyridine, (3) tropane, (4) quinoline, (5) isoquinoline, (6) indole, (7) glyoxaline, and (8) the purine nucleus. These are followed by (9) alkaloids derived from aliphatic amines and (10) alkaloids of unknown constitution.

All the more important alkaloids of the above-mentioned groups are very fully described with reference to their botanical sources, chemical characters and physiological action, and in connection with each subject there are abundant citations of the literature. The methods of the British and United States Pharmacopœias for the assay of drugs containing medicinal alkaloids have also been included, such, for example, as those for coca leaves, cinchona bark, nux vomica, opium and the solanaceous plants. Inasmuch as the author has referred (p. 330) to the method of Power and Chesnut for the determination of caffeine in vegetable material, it may not be amiss to

note that this method has now been adopted as the official one by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.

The experience of the author in the investigation of plant alkaloids has rendered him exceptionally well qualified for undertaking the task of elucidating a subject of such complexity, and a perusal of the present work reveals the painstaking care that has been exercised in its accomplishment. It may consequently be stated that the work possesses such a degree of accuracy and completeness as to merit the highest commendation, and all who are interested in the study of plant alkaloids may be assured of finding it to contain thoroughly trustworthy information concerning them.

It only remains to be noted that the book is excellently printed, substantially bound, and provided with a very complete index.

F. B. POWER.

Allen's "Commercial Organic Analysis," 5th Edition, Editors: Samuel S. Sadtler, S. B., Elbert C. Lathrop, A.B., Ph.D., and C. Ainsworth Mitchell, M.S., F.I.C. Volume II, 8vo. IX + 807 pages. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Cloth. \$7.50.

The fourth edition of this old standby comprised 517 pages. The scope of the work is practically unchanged, the increase of approximately 300 pages being accounted for by the introduction of many new methods as well as by more detailed and explicit treatment thereof. This latter is very fortunate and should greatly promote uniformity in results obtained by different workers. While the revisers and editors have given prominence to the above-mentioned newer and accepted methods, many of the earlier ones, considered as satisfactory and available for routine work have been retained.

The following is the list of collaborators and the topics contributed by each: C. Ainsworth Mitchell, London, England, "General Properties and Analytical Methods for Fixed Oils, Fats