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) *iso*quinoline, (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