

of three, all of whom are experts in their particular fields of horticultural science. They were assisted in their work by representatives of the following participating organizations: American Association of Nurserymen, Ornamental Growers Association, American Pharmaceutical Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Institute of Park Executives and Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists, constituting the American Joint Committee of Horticultural Nomenclature, as well as by numerous collaborators on particular plant groups.

The body of this "Catalogue" contains both the scientific and common names of plants in American commerce, fully cross indexed and arranged in alphabetical sequence. Approved scientific names are in bold-face, approved common names in small capitals, and synonyms and unapproved scientific names are in italic. Scientific names of genera are in each case followed by an alphabetical list of species belonging thereto. Each species name is accompanied by its common name and by an italicized synonym when a synonym is in well-established and authoritative use. The names of natural varieties of a given species that are recognized by botanists and found in American commerce are listed to the right of the species name.

Horticultural varieties of many genera are grouped according to the alphabetical order of their common names in special lists which follow the lists of species of these genera.

By the authority of the constituent organizations of the American Joint Committee, the scientific and common names listed within this book are declared adopted for a period of not less than five years.

Partly on account of the lack of an authoritative registration mechanism and partly because of lack of proper coöperation among horticulturists and other plant science workers, the synonyms in use for genera and particularly for species and varieties have now become so numerous as to cause a condition approaching a veritable "babel." This state of affairs has been especially noticeable in the horticultural trades where, on account of the chaos of name duplications for widely different plants, much inconvenience, embarrassment and loss of interest has occurred. This condition has reflected itself upon the ultimate purchaser, who, after ordering plants by names listed in trade catalogues, has often received entirely

different plants from those desired and expected.

Accordingly, the work is highly commendable, as a welcome means of relief to all concerned in horticultural matters. Absolute and permanent fixity of botanical nomenclature cannot be insured by arbitrary agreement, on account of the constant discovery of new evidence as to the facts. Researches in genetics, taxonomy and other branches of botanical science are bound to alter classification and nomenclature, based on previous incomplete knowledge. The adoption in the published rules of the Committee's work, therefore, of a provision for revision and correction of the list at 5 or 10 year intervals after due notice to all concerned, should keep the work reasonably up to date and adequately meet the demands of the trades concerned.

It is to be hoped that the list of names in future editions will be augmented to include additional standardized scientific and common names for plants, parts of which only are found in commerce.

The work as a whole is highly creditable alike to the authors, participating organizations and printers. It cannot help but fill a long-desired need and so will undoubtedly be welcomed by all who are interested in plants from either the commercial or scientific angles. It will surely appeal to all concerned as a tangible basis for constructive criticism and should stimulate progressive action toward the simplification of horticultural nomenclature.

HEBER W. YOUNGKEN.

The Pharmacist's Botany. 45 illustrations and 2 appendices. 12 mo. xvi + 303 pages. Cloth, \$3.25. By George B. Rigg, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Botany, University of Washington. The Macmillan Co., New York, N. Y.

"The author has spent fourteen years actively engaged in the problem of teaching pharmacy botany—eliminating non-essentials so often stressed—and seeking ever more practical means of presenting the subject to best advantage with the least waste. This book is the result."

This statement of the publishers may be said to embody the keynote of the book. In the average pharmaceutical curriculum botany must be the principal if not the only introduction to the fundamentals of biology. Besides this primarily cultural function the

study should be of major importance in the very practical if not wholly technical mission of developing that observational power so vitally necessary to the modern pharmacist. While in the limited time allotted this tremendously broad subject much thoughtful concentration upon certain phases is a necessity it seems unfortunate that our author should approach his task so primarily as a problem in elimination from the "practical" viewpoint. And there may be others beside the present reviewer who will believe that some of the space in the volume, for instance that given to the "practicality" of simple listings of botanical drugs, would not be wholly wasted if spent instead upon some of the broader fundamentals of biology, on the cultural side, or a more adequate treatment of the type of histology prerequisite to a modern course in pharmacognosy, on the technical side.

Part I, Seed Plants, with Some Mention of Spore Plants, includes rather more than half the book. It deals chiefly with organography, touching upon the bare elements of histology. It also includes brief chapters on The Plant Cell, Botanical Names, Physiological Processes, Life Histories of Seed Plants, and a much longer one on Classification of Seed Plants. Fully half of the thirty pages of the last named, however, is made up of lists, by families, of botanical drugs official and non-official. These lists are very complete. The chapter on "Life Histories" is chiefly concerned with the development of microspore, macrospore, and seed.

Part II, Spore Plants, is the most adequately developed portion of the book. This is the more praiseworthy inasmuch as these groups are difficult to handle from the viewpoint of pharmaceutical botany.

Part III, Some Other Phases of Pharmacy Botany, deals, too briefly, with Ecology, Propagation, and Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics.

The style of the book is easy, approaching the colloquial, and rarely concise. Except for occasional headings within chapters, bold-face and other typographical devices for accentuation are rarely used. Except in the listings "common" names are usually employed, but the binomials and generic names are tabulated in Appendix B. Of the 45 illustrations (rather a small number for such a book) many are original; of these several are excellent, while others fail to add to the otherwise good appearance of the volume. The index is remarkably complete.

Space forbids detailed comment on many noteworthy details of the text. "Organic evolution deals with the orderly development of complex living things from simple ones, careful distinction being drawn between the facts of evolution and the various theories offered in explanation of these facts." In view of the accumulated paleobotanic evidence of numerous reduction series in the plant kingdom, the first portion of the statement is regrettably conventional. While the conclusion is praiseworthy in its conservatism, in view of the fundamental influence of evolutionary theory on biological thought and the widespread and too often ill-informed interest in the subject to-day, it seems unfortunate that Professor Rigg has not given his readers at least a brief summation of the more important of these theories.

This book will doubtless find a welcome among teachers who from circumstance or inclination limit their work, save for certain technical applications, substantially to the ground covered by a well-ordered high school course in botany. And probably many a pharmacist, relieved from the necessity of "making a grade" in this rather abstruse subject, will find pleasure and profit in reviewing it in Professor Rigg's very readable volume.

E. E. STANFORD.

MEDICATING A NATION'S TABLE SALT.

The *Chemist & Druggist* states that the Austrian government has decided that in future the government salt works shall supply to the licensed retailers of salt (it is a state monopoly in that country) for public consumption culinary salt containing in every 1000 grams 0.005 gram of potassium iodide, prepared by a special process, and designated as "Entire Salt" to be sold at the same price as ordinary salt. The government is at pains to explain that this is not a medicinal preparation, but

a measure intended to improve ordinary salt by making it the vehicle for introducing into the organism a constituent necessary to ensure perfect metabolism, especially in the case of the inhabitants in the Alpine districts (an allusion to the prevalence of goitre in those parts). The annual per capita consumption of salt is estimated at 7 to 8 kilograms, so that in the course of a year each dutiful citizen of the Austrian republic will introduce into his system about 0.038 gram ($\frac{1}{2}$ grain) of potassium iodide, as decreed. *Salus publica suprema lex.*