

pages on how to keep the industrial worker well and efficient; most of it in language which any intelligent layman can understand.

Until one looks it over, one hardly realizes the enormous field which has to be covered in such a work. There are forty-two chapters, many of them subdivided into sections. Practically each of the chapters and sections treats of a different topic; ventilation, sanitation and lighting of the workshop; personal hygiene, diet and housing of the worker; mining, lumbering, farming; iron, paper, shoes, food, soap, clothing; automobiles and transportation; poisons such as carbon monoxide, arsenic, lead, phosphorous and mercury; infectious diseases, fatigue, cancer; to mention but a few. Some topics require much more space than others; the chapter on poisoning has three hundred and forty pages—lead alone has sixty—fatigue has fifty, dust thirty-five, cancer twenty-four. Even so, the book can be little more than an introduction to the subjects and there is very wisely provided at the end of nearly every chapter and section a select list of references so that any subject can be followed up to any extent the reader may require. The number of such references on any one topic runs from five to thirty and in a few instances to fifty or one hundred.

No one man nor two could cover such a wide field and so the editors have very wisely enlisted the coöperation of experts in various lines. Ten such contributors are from Boston, six from Washington, five from New York City, four from Europe, three from Ohio and the other five from various places; three are connected with the U. S. Public Health Service, three with the U. S. Army, and three with labor organizations. This does not mean that the editors have simply put a group of articles by these various contributors through the press. Their own work is manifest throughout. The name of the senior editor is attached to no less than thirty-five chapters or sections and the name of the junior editor to sixteen and these in both cases are scattered throughout the volume.

It must be confessed that it makes the table of contents look peculiar to have nearly every chapter and section by a different author. Another peculiar feature is that a long historical chapter immediately follows the title page thus putting the table of contents sixty-seven pages from the front and making it difficult to find. At the end of the volume one hundred and seven pages are given up to

an index which seems to be very complete, practically all the chapter headings and leading terms have been incorporated. However, I happen to note that Necator on page eight and fulminating powder on page 548 are omitted. On page 693 Strongyloides is indexed but Trichiuris is not; on page 694 Taenia is indexed but Cysticercus is not. There is also no uniformity in the indexing of double terms: For example, "functional spasms" and "hephestic palsy" are indexed under the second term, while "craft neurosis," "lilly rash" and "packer's itch" are indexed under the first term in each case. However, these are minor faults which can be corrected in a second edition.

Pharmacists will probably be most interested in the completeness with which the occurrence of poisoning in the industries has been treated. It is necessary to consider carbon monoxide as a poison in no fewer than twenty-seven industries and benzine in eleven. Even so inert and harmless a substance as carbon tetrachloride may cause poisoning not only when administered for the treatment of hookworm infection but also when it forms a constituent of a hair wash, when it is used as a solvent in a milliners' cement, in the "dope" for aeroplane wings or in the rubber industry and, finally, when used as a fire extinguisher it may be changed into carbon monoxide by the heat of the fire and be seriously dangerous in a closed room.

The book is a storehouse of valuable information and a notable contribution to the improvement of the health of the laboring man and of the conditions under which he must work.

F. C. L. MILLER.

Standardized Plant Names. A Catalogue of Approved Scientific and Common Names of Plants in American Commerce. By F. L. Olmstead, F. V. Coville and H. P. Kelsey, Sub-committee. Pages XVI + 548. American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature, Salem, Mass., 1923. Standard edition, \$5.00; flexibly bound thin-paper edition, \$6.50. This work is the concrete result of efforts on the part of horticulturists, florists, pharmacists, landscape architects and park executives to check the confusion of names of horticultural plants by bringing about, so far as practicable, the consistent use of a single standardized "scientific" name and a single standardized "common" name for every tree, shrub and herb in American commerce.

It has been compiled by a sub-committee

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