

chemistry, both quantitative and qualitative is open to the criticism that the treatment of each division must be very brief. Every one interested will acknowledge that it is a very difficult matter to decide just what the scope of the work given to a student shall be and the decision rests upon the personal ideas of the teacher or author and the needs of his students. When does a little knowledge become a dangerous thing or is a little knowledge on a large number of subjects a valuable thing? The authors of this book seem to lean to the latter view and if this is correct, the book is an excellent exposition of the idea.

This idea is particularly evident in the treatment of the subject of colloidal solutions, only two and one half pages being devoted to the subject and this entirely to colloidal suspensions. The question of jels, the subjects of osmosis, dialysis, etc., are not mentioned in this connection. The discussion of gravimetric methods is painfully brief as is also that of gas analysis and water analysis. The same remarks might apply to the material presented on the subject of qualitative analysis and the question arises—Would it not be better to eliminate such very brief discussions of such special topics and devote the space to a more thorough discussion of the principles of general chemistry such as ionization, mass action, hydrogen ion concentration, indicators, hydrolysis, etc.? These remarks would apply particularly to the inclusion of such things as the lists of apparatus and reagents which are found on pages 353-357 which more properly belong in laboratory manuals and also to the reproduction of tables of neutralization equivalents on pages 397-407 which might better be sought for in books of reference such as special works on volumetric analysis or the U. S. P.

Aside from the criticisms made above, the treatment of the various topics is logical and errors of fact do not often appear to the casual observer. As a basis of study and under the guidance of competent instructors to direct the student and possibly in medical schools conducted along the lines prevailing some years ago such a book will no doubt be found very useful. It certainly presents in a concise manner much information which is of great value to the student of medicine or pharmacy and which is not found in most of the regular texts supplied to such students. The book as a whole makes a fine-appearing volume.

The binding, the printing, the general arrangement of chapter and paragraph headings is very excellent and no typographical errors of any kind were discovered.

A. H. CLARK.

Hospital Corps Handbook, United States Navy, 1923. Published by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery under the authority of the Secretary of the Navy.

The Handbook is intended for use at the Hospital Training Schools and covers, in abstract in some instances and in detail in others, a wide range of subjects. It serves as a text or guide in the preparation of the members of the hospital corps to perform their numerous duties.

A preliminary discussion of the subjects of anatomy and physiology is followed by a more thorough outline of the subjects of first aid and minor surgery, including bandaging and dental first aid.

The chapter on nursing treats of the general procedures with instruction in operating room and surgical technique, administration of anesthetics, physiotherapy and the preparation of food for the sick.

Preventive medicine, hygiene and sanitation receive considerable attention and instructs the corpsman in the care of the health of the personnel of the navy under all conditions while in the service.

The elementary theories of chemistry and pharmacy are discussed briefly followed by the subject of *materia medica* which includes the definition, manufacture, physical and therapeutical properties with doses and methods of administration of all drugs and preparations of the U. S. P.

Instruction is given in bacteriology and clinical diagnostic procedure; also embalming, X-ray and chemical warfare.

Duties on land and sea are definitely stated. The administration, organization, clerical duties etc., are fully explained.

In a handbook of about 700 pages a wide field of activity is explained and provided for the hospital corps in language that can be understood by the man of average education and mental alertness.

This edition was revised by Lieuts. W. J. C. Agnew and W. W. Behlow, Medical Corps, and Chief Pharmacist N. L. Saunders.

Copies of the handbook may be had from the Government Printing Office at \$1.00 per copy.

C. A. DUNCAN.