

### NARCOTIC CONFERENCE FUND VOTED.

An appropriation of \$40,000 has been voted by the Senate to enable the U. S. Government to participate in the International Conferences at Geneva next November with a view of

bringing about curtailment of the production of opium and coca leaves. The representatives of the United States are directed to sign no agreement which does not fulfill the conditions necessary for the supervision of the habit-forming drug traffic as set forth in the preamble of the Porter resolution.

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Foibles and Fallacies of Science.* An Account of Celebrated Scientific Vagaries. By Daniel W. Hering, C.E., Ph.D., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of Physics and formerly Dean of the Faculty of the Graduate School, New York University; Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Physical Society, etc., etc. 5½ x 8½. Illustrated, 294 pp. Cloth, \$2.50. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1924.

The author is a well-known physicist and scientist who served as head of his department at the New York University for many years. He is the author of "Essentials of Physics," a university textbook and of a number of articles and books on scientific subjects of popular interest. This, his latest book, displays a strength of treatment and lucidity that mark it as unique among popular books on semi-scientific subjects.

The actual scope of the volume may be seen from the following chapter headings: Astrology, Almanacs, Transmutation of Metals, Perpetual Motion, Overturning of Scientific Hypotheses, Divination, Geographic Mania, Hoaxes, Prophecies, Charlatanism, Radiation, Other Ancient Chimeras. An extensive experience in the study and teaching of physical science has brought the author into contact with so much pseudo-science posing as genuine, that it seemed to him worth while to write out in some degree of completeness an account of several foibles in which a few specific instances might serve as types to illustrate whole classes of vagaries. Some are of ancient origin and practice but they still survive and reveal a never-ending struggle against ignorance, credulity and audacity.

The book is well illustrated, the title illustration being "Emperor Rudolf II in the Laboratory of his Alchemist at Prague," a reproduction from the original in the Art Gallery of the New York Public Library and painted by the Bohemian artist, Nacsiao Broszik, compatriot of Emperor Rudolf.

The work is really a serious study of pseudo-

science, an absorbing account of celebrated vagaries of science and interesting stories of queer theories. It is intended both for the layman in science and the professional student to whom we can highly recommend it. Pharmacists will also find much interesting matter in the book with which they should become familiar.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, PH. M.

*Aids to Practical Pathology.* By F. W. W. Griffin, M.A., M.D., B.C. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. (England), L.R.C.P. (London), Assistant Pathologist, Virol Pathological Research Laboratories. Late Capt. R. A. M. C. Pathologist, formerly Tuberculosis Officer, County of Surrey, etc., and W. F. M. Thompson, Chief Technical Assistant, Virol Pathological Research Laboratories, etc. 246 pp. and 8 illustrations. Cloth, \$1.50. New York, William Wood and Co., 1923.

In view of the prominent place taken to-day by clinical pathology in the diagnosis and treatment of disease the little book before us, a compact and classified summary of the practical side of the work, will be found very useful. It is a record of long personal and practical experience by the two authors and only those tests are included which have been in constant use and have been found to be reliable.

Special attention is paid to the chemistry and bacteriology of urine and blood, the importance of which is more and more recognized. The section dealing with gastric contents includes the very important method of fractional analysis, which is undoubtedly the most modern and satisfactory procedure in this particular field.

The Table of Contents and the Index have been very carefully compiled so that any detail required can be traced without any difficulty. The size of the book is so that it will fit the pocket and laboratory table rather than the library shelf. It is full of useful practical information and we can highly recommend this inexpensive book to pharmacists, physicians, chemists and students.

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