

man of the Ways and Means Committee, making it clear that the internal revenue tax on spirits shall apply to imported spirits in addition to the duty thereon and that smuggled spirits shall be held to be imported spirits and subject to such tax. Mr. Green explained that the necessity for this amendment arose from a department of justice ruling for the sale of seized smuggled alcohol by United States marshals free of tax.

CRAMTON BILL IN CONGRESS.

The Cramton Bill will again have its day in Congress. It is said Mr. Cramton doubts that hearings on the Bill are necessary this session of Congress in view of the voluminous character of the hearings held on it last Congress. He is expected to press it before the

House judiciary committee before many weeks, but if the matter is to be taken up the alcohol trades will insist upon having hearings to present their opposition to the bill.

ALCOHOL TRADES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ASKED TO BE RELIEVED.

D. H. Blair, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, is understood to have indicated his willingness to have the Alcohol Trades Advisory Committee liquidated. The committee, since the reorganization of the prohibition service under L. C. Andrews, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, has not been called upon to function with regard to a number of treasury rulings, decisions and regulations.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Chemistry in Modern Life. By Svante Arrhenius. Translated from the Swedish and revised by Clifford S. Leonard, pp. xiii—286. D. Van Nostrand & Co., N. Y., 1925. Price \$3.00.

This splendid volume representing the last addition to the recently proposed Library of Modern Sciences, is truly a masterful contribution to technical literature. The work was originally intended to serve as a non-technical exposition of the romance of chemistry in its magnanimous applications in modern industry. However, a thorough inspection of the work, impelled by reading the interestingly written themes, discloses the book to be rather more valuable as a technical reference or collateral text instead of a popular exposition as anticipated by the writer. The numerous monographs commence with historical data incident to the ancient conceptions regarding the constitution of matter and progress through the subsequent developments in chemistry, pure and applied, up to and including the modern present age of Electro chemistry.

These topics, intended for the average non-technical reader, in reality present fundamental principles with a lucidity far excelling many textbooks devoted exclusively to any of the purely scientific themes in particular. The reviewer in this instance refers to the chapters, "Energy," "Electricity and Chemistry," and "The Course of Chemical Reaction."

These chapters deal with the laws of physics as applied to the interpretation of certain chemical phenomena. The research accom-

plishments and prolific scientific contribution of Guldberg and Waage, Hittdorf, Van't Hoff, Helmholz, Ostwald and others, are duly credited and presented in a manner readily comprehended. Fundamental laws of Mass Action, Transport Velocity in Migration of Ions, Potential Series, etc., are a few of the topics introduced.

Professor Arrhenius reveals his modesty in never referring to his epoch-making contributions to electro-chemistry, while the translator of his own accord mentions the excellent work of the Swedish savant in the province of Immunology.

The data comprising the chapter on Dyes, Perfumes and Drugs, is within the scope of the book, briefly treated, and presents very little new material of pharmaceutical importance, yet is ably and interestingly discussed.

In view of the decadent professional attitude of the average practitioner of American pharmacy, this little volume is as a pearl discarded. Its value will be fully appreciated by the pharmaceutical, industrial and professional chemist, and students generally, and represents a valuable acquisition to technical literature of 1925.

SIMON MENDELSON.

Entwicklung und Stand der Pharmazeutischen Grossindustrie Deutschlands. Von Dr. Johann Heinrich Merck ans Darmstadt. Octavo 89 pp. Georg Stilke, Berlin, N. W. 7.

Who in the pharmaceutical, medical, chemical and technological realm does not know the name of Merck in Darmstadt, a firm over 250

years old and with a world wide reputation? This text was written as a thesis by a younger member of the Merck family. Among the 8 chapters I want to print out the following: History of Pharmacy, Crude Drugs, Scientific and Technical Education of the Chemist, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry and The Commercial War.

Prof. Dr. Hans Th. Bucherer in Charlottenburg, an uncle of the author, wrote the introduction to the Thesis, which also furnishes numerous references to the literature on this subject, occupying two pages.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, Ph.M.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCE THE FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES OF NUMERICAL DATA OF PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY.

In making the publication contract, the National Research Council has reserved to members of scientific and engineering societies, and to libraries and research laboratories, for a certain period, the right to purchase the volumes at the estimated manufacturing cost.

The work of compiling International Critical Tables was undertaken by the National Research Council at the request of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, with the endorsement of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, and under the auspices of the International Research Council.

The material contained in International Critical Tables has been collected and critically evaluated by some 300 Coöperating Experts, including chemists, physicists, and engineers of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Australia and Japan.—The address of the National Research Council is B & 21st St., Washington, D. C.

CHEMICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

A Bibliography of Bibliographies on Chemistry and Chemical Technology, 1900-1924, by Clarence J. West and D. D. Berolzheimer, is announced by the National Research Council, Washington, D. C., as their Bulletin No. 50 (308 pp., \$2.50). This work is composed of the following sections: General

Bibliographies, Abstract Journals and Year-Books, General Indexes of Serials, Bibliographies of Special Subjects and Personal Bibliographies. As the title indicates, the work is a compilation of bibliographies published as separates, or at the end of books or magazine articles, or as footnotes to the same, on the numerous aspects of pure and applied chemistry. Each entry gives name of author or compiler, title and place of publication. The majority of the entries state the number of references, thus giving an indication of the completeness of the particular bibliography. The entries are classified under the proper subject-headings, alphabetically arranged. The duplication of individual entries has been largely avoided by the liberal use of cross-references. An approximate analysis shows that there are about 2400 subject headings, 7500 author entries and a total of 10,000 individual bibliographies. Although no claim is made for the completeness of the compilation, it is believed that the work will furnish a convenient starting point for any bibliographic search.

GREECE OPIUM MONOPOLY.

A government monopoly has been established in Greece for the importation and sale of narcotics (opium, cocaine, etc.) by a recently published decree according to the Department of Commerce. Purchases of all these products will be effected solely for the account of the state which will distribute them to the druggists and pharmacists authorized to sell them. Prices will be fixed by the government and the cultivation of poppies in Greece is to be regulated by special permit from the Ministry of Finance.

HOXIDE CANCER INSTITUTE SUES AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

Damages of \$100,000 are sought in a suit for alleged libel filed against the American Medical Association by the Hoxide Cancer Institute. The action is said to be based on a criticism of the institute printed in the January 2 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.—A public press item.

PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM GETS BEQUEST.

By the will of John D. McIlheny the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (Philadelphia) will receive a gift of \$100,000.