

urine, but those which the authors believe most valuable. The presentation of the subject is in a manner which is practically serviceable to the neophyte in clinical chemistry.

Although the book is intended primarily for medical students, those pharmacists who have wider interests than the bare requirements of the store will find the book a valuable handy reference for giving a concept of the meaning of such terms as "amino-acids," "split proteins," "monosaccharids," and similar terms, which are being frequently met in physiological and chemical literature. In addition the book furnishes formulas for a number of important reagents used in clinical and physiological chemistry which the pharmacist may be called upon to compound. The value of the book as a reference book we believe would be improved if a different form of type had been used for describing the experiments and if the index were made a little more elaborate.

The book is interleaved for notations by students and others using the book.

H. C. WOOD.

Recent Advances in Physiology. By C. Lovatt Evans, Prof. of Physiology, at St. Bartholomew's Medical College, University of London. Published by P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Philadelphia. 360 pages. Price \$3.50.

According to the author, this little book may be called an "elementary test-book of advanced physiology;" its aim being to serve as a bridge between the ordinary texts and the mass of current physiological literature. Writing with a style so often possessed by the educated Englishman, Professor Evans succeeds admirably in accomplishing this object. Evidently, the physiology of the circulation attracts him especially; nearly half of the book is devoted to a consideration of this phase of the subject, emphasis being placed particularly on the chemical rather than the physical phenomena. As would be expected from the important contributions to the physiology of muscular contraction which have been made by contemporary English investigators, the author gives considerable space for a consideration of this. Separated from the chapters on muscular contraction by a brief discussion of the endocrine glands, there follows a discussion of the views regarding muscular tonus; finally, there is a section on the physiology of the conditioned reflexes.

If any adverse criticism is justifiable, it is

on the ground of the omission of portions of the subject; the author forestalls this, however, by the intimation that he felt better qualified to discuss the parts to which he confined himself.

C. C. H.

Elements of Chemistry, by William Foster, Ph.D., Prof. of Chemistry Princeton University. Pp. XVIII + 576. D. Van Nostrand Co., N. Y., 1925. Price \$2.00.

This volume represents one of the many volumes on Elementary Chemistry introduced within the past year. Each text, despite the anticipated elementary character, nevertheless tends to aggravate the existant plethora of "acute electronitis!" It appears that writers pack their texts to fullest capacity with data and topics of no material value to the student commencing the study of chemistry.

Foster's volume devotes considerable space to the work of Laue, Rutherford, Mosely, Bohr, Lewis, Langmuir, the Braggs, and others, in the realm of pure physics, at the expense of other monographs in the text. For example, the treatment of individual elements, together with their compounds, is notably brief, only one or two compounds being described for the majority of the respective elements.

The writer states on p. 149 that hydrogen molecules sustain 9,520,000,000 collisions per second with other similar molecules in the same aggregate of the gas. No inkling is afforded as to the validity of such conclusion or even the principles of the method whereby the value was ascertained.

As to the commendably presented Electron Theory, which is a purely physical conception, Foster makes no allusion concerning the fundamental hypotheses whereby the mass of the electron can be estimated. He states this mass to be about 1/1850 that of the hydrogen ion in electrolysis. If the underlying principles are too complicated for the beginner in chemistry, then why even mention the elaborations of these principles in an elementary text?

The book, on the other hand, possesses innumerable redeeming features. Each chapter is concluded with summary, exercises and references for collateral reading, and is abundantly illustrated with cuts and half-tones. The treatment of colloid chemistry, spectrum analysis, and principles of metallurgy, are exceptionally well written.

Discussion of the elementary theories of