

PURE WHISKY ONLY TO BE DISPENSED.

In a general order by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, L. C. Andrews, to prohibition administrators the belief is expressed that it is possible to clean up pretty thoroughly on the diversion of whisky through its present form of distribution for medicinal use by revoking the permits of all those druggists who are party to its misuse.

He mentioned a plan proposed by Administrator Baird of the Pittsburgh district "to lift simultaneously from every drug store in a given city one pint of its medicinal whisky, then test this whisky for purity and, where he finds the druggist handling split whisky or other than absolutely pure bottled-in-bond whisky, to revoke his permit." Mr. Baird would then publish the names of those druggists handling the genuine whisky "so the public may know where it may be procured for medicinal purposes." When this is done simultaneously throughout the city "it is as fair for one as for another," Mr. Andrews said, "and it occurs to me that in the interest of public health as well as law enforcement, this may well be done. In the larger cities it would have to be done one section at a time for want of men enough to handle it. In all cases the bottle could be returned to the druggist after it had been tested.—Through *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR DRUGGIST.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for Druggist in the Sixth Civil Service District, which comprises the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. A vacancy in the position of Pharmacist, U. S. Veterans' Bureau, Cleveland, Ohio, \$1800 a year, and vacancies in positions requiring similar qualifications, at this or higher or lower salary, as they may occur in the Sixth Civil Service District, will be filled from this examination, unless it is found to be in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer, or promotion.

Receipts of applications will close March 3; the places for examination follow:

Ohio.—Ashtabula, Athens, Canton, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, East Liverpool, Ironton, Lima, Mansfield, Marietta, Portsmouth, Sandusky, Toledo, Youngstown, Zanesville.

Indiana.—Angola, Bloomington, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, LaFayette, Marion, Muncie, Richmond, South Bend, Terre Haute, Valparaiso, Vincennes.

Kentucky.—Ashland, Bowling Green, Covington, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Lexington, London, Louisville, Middlesboro, Owensboro, Paducah, Somerset, U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 79, Outwood.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Physiological and Clinical Chemistry. By William A. Pearson, Ph.C., M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Physiological Chemistry and Toxicology in Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia; and Joseph S. Hepburn, B.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry in Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia. Lea & Febiger (1925), 306 pages. Price \$4.00.

This book is intended primarily as a laboratory guide for medical students in physiological and clinical chemistry. It presupposes a knowledge of general chemistry and qualitative analysis, as well as some acquaintance with organic chemistry.

The book is divided into two sections. The first part deals with organic chemistry and the composition of the various body tissues and food stuffs. The second part covers the chemical examination of various secretions of the

body for diagnostic purposes, such as those of the salivary glands, stomach, kidney, etc., and the various chemical examinations of the blood which are used in clinical medicine; there are special chapters on the examination of milk and water.

The general plan of the first portion of the book is to give a brief statement of the facts concerning composition and properties of the various compounds treated, followed by directions for experiments which the student is supposed to apply as illustrative of the facts quoted. While the book is small and considerable space is occupied in the description of these experiments, a remarkable amount of general information is condensed into the text.

The second part is not intended as a handbook of medical diagnosis. It does not give, for example, all the tests for glucose in the

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