

In his report he says that many thermometers on the market are so unreliable as to deviate from 2 to 5 degrees from actual temperature of the body. The report says further that the committee was convinced that "this is a matter of the greatest importance to the health and welfare—indeed to the very lives—of the people of the United States."

The committee had before it another bill providing for a system of licensing of clinical thermometers by the Bureau of Standards, which it did not favor. The bill reported is identical to one reported by the same committee last Congress, which passed the senate.—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

PRIZES FOR PAPERS ON PRICE MAINTENANCE.

An offer of \$10,000 in prizes for the thirty-eight best suggestions for a practical price maintenance plan has been made by the Lehn & Fink Products Company, New York.

Plans submitted must be comprehensive. They must cover a definite policy for the drug retailers, the jobber (both "service" and "mutual"), the manufacturer, the chain store, and the department store. They must consider the advisability of a resale

price law. They must also cover a practical solution of the "free goods" and "hidden discount" problems, and they must be legal.

Plans should cover not alone the retail phases of the problem, but should take into consideration the manufacturer and wholesaler as well. In like manner, plans submitted by wholesalers must cover the manufacturer and retailer angles as well as their own.

THE PRIZES.

First award.....	\$3000
Second award.....	2000
Third award.....	1000
Four \$250 awards.....	1000
Ten \$100 awards.....	1000
Twenty \$50 awards.....	1000
Special award for professors and students of economics.....	1000

The regular contest is open to all distributors, both retail and wholesale; this includes any individual member of these firms.

The special contest is open only to professors and students of economics or marketing. The plans submitted for the special \$1000 prize will be considered as separate and apart from the contest among wholesalers and retailers.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Perfumes, Cosmetics and Soaps. By William A. Poucher, Ph.C., Consulting Perfume-Chemist. Two volumes. Volume I. Demy 8vo. IX, 304 pages, 24 illustrations. Volume II, XVI, 406 pages, 60 illustrations. \$10 per set. Publishers, C. Van Nostrand Company, New York, 1926.

In this, the second edition of the well-known work by Poucher, the material of the earlier edition appears to have undergone an extensive revision and the scope has been considerably enlarged, particularly in the direction of the application of raw materials in the perfuming of soaps and tobacco. The large amount of new material which has been included is no doubt largely responsible for the publication of the work in two volumes instead of one volume as was formerly the case, although convenience to the user, from the standpoint of arrangement of the material, appears to have had its influence.

Volume I is essentially a dictionary of raw materials of value to the perfume chemist. As such it is most comprehensive, even the dyes used in the coloring of perfumes and cos-

metics being contained therein. An admirable feature of this part of the work is the type formulas which are given for the preparation of perfumes, cosmetics and coloring materials. There can be little criticism of the volume from the standpoint of the manufacturer, but it is believed that its usefulness could have been considerably extended if more data on the physical and chemical constants had been included in the monographs on the individual items.

Volume II deals with the preparation of natural and artificial perfumes and the manufacture of all forms of modern cosmetics. Numerous formulas for the manufacture of articles of each type are given as well as detailed directions for their use. It appears that the information on these topics has been brought right up to date and that nothing of importance along this line has been overlooked.

The work as a whole is well done, the type is clear and the style is good. Some of the illustrations are rather poor, but on the whole they are sufficiently clear to bring out the points which they are intended to emphasize.

The two volumes contain much of interest

and value to the pharmacist and should find a place on the book shelf of every drug store.—A. G. DuMEZ.

Die Methoden der Organischen Chemie. Unter Mitwirkung von Fachgenossen, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. J. Houben, o. Mitglied der Biologischen Reichsanstalt, a. o. Professor an der Universität Berlin. 3. Völlig umgearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. I. Band. Allgemeiner Teil 1340 pp. mit 2 Tafeln und 851 Abbildungen. MK. 66—Verlag von Georg Thieme, Anton str. 15, Leipzig.

Only four years ago Vol. I of the second edition of this "masterwork" was published. Surely a testimonial of the popularity and value of the work. Houben's *Methods of Organic Chemistry* is one of the standard works on this subject.

Vol. I comprises the General Part and has been enlarged by the addition of three new chapters, namely "Interferometry," "Determination of Hydrogen-Ion Concentration" and "Determination of Molecular Compounds by Thermal Analysis," which brings the work right up to date, and which is the aim of the author and his collaborators, all authoritative on the respective subjects assigned to them.

Among the 46 chapters treated in this General Part, I want to point out the following, besides the three just mentioned: Elementary Organic Analysis by Prof. Dr. H. Simonis; Simplified Elementary Analysis by Prof. Dr. M. Dennstedt; Organic Micro-Analysis by Prof. Dr. J. V. Dubsky; Volumetric Analysis by Prof. Dr. A. Sonn; Colorimetry by Prof. Dr. G. Reddellien; Capillary Analysis by Dr. H. Rheinboldt; Heating and Drying by Dr. Ing. Wilhelm Steinkopf; Agitation, Clarification and Decolorizing by Dr. J. Herzog; Decantation and Filtration by Prof. Dr. J. Houben; Distillation by Dr. Christ. J. Hansen; Melting Point by Reg. Rat Dr. Rich. Kempf; Specific Gravity by Prof. Dr. A. Byk; Polarization by Prof. Dr. H. Schreiber; Molecular Weight by Prof. Dr. H. Simonis; Viscosity by Dr. H. Rheinboldt. Some of these names are also well known in pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry!

How thoroughly the material is treated can be seen from the following few advantages. The List of Abbreviations used in the book occupies four pages. The value of the work is greatly enhanced by the addition of a copious bibliography in the form of footnotes, for instance seven on pp. 242, 256, 429 and 786, eight on p. 42 and as many as nine on p. 430.

The book is fully illustrated with 551 (not 5S1 as stated on cover) excellent illustrations, well arranged and clearly explained. The Appendix contains five very useful tables. The Subject Index consists of 16 double-column pages and the Authors Index of 18 three-column pages.

The book is a library in itself and should be in the hands of all interested and should surely find a place in the libraries and laboratories of our Colleges.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, PH.M.

A MEDIEVAL DIET BOOK.

A treatise on how to develop the brain has been found in the archives of Strasbourg. The book was written in 1532 by Laurence Fries and in it he states: "A person who works with his brains, 'should confine himself to a diet of the following 'brain foods:' fried fowl, fresh poached eggs (not boiled, fried or scrambled), apples, quinces, hazel nuts and red wine." He especially opposed eating all so-called "red meats" because they develop physical strength to the detriment of mental faculties.

JOHN BARTRAM READ OUT OF MEETING.

Events of about 150 years ago are of interest at this time, because of the Sesqui-Centennial at the A. PH. A. Convention City. John Bartram, whose botanic garden on the Schuylkill still is open to visitors, was read out of Meeting (Friends) because of views not so different from some present-day thought. The step was regretted but the botanist held to his views, and that none might misunderstand his faith he chiseled into a stone over the door of his house, still standing, the inscription:

"To God alone: the Almighty Lord,
The Holy One by me adored—John
Bartram 1770."

SPEYER VISITING PROFESSORSHIP.

The Speyer visiting professorship, which was established with a \$50,000 endowment by James Speyer, senior member of the banking house of Speyer & Co., New York, is for the purpose of providing for an exchange of knowledge between Germany and the United States.

Dr. Karl Ferdinand Herzfeld, professor at the University of Munich, was the first scientist named under the above provision. He has completed his work at Johns Hopkins and is now at the University of Illinois.