

It is difficult to comprehend the *raison d'être* of such a book, unless it is intended for popular reading by the laity, nurses, or perhaps that naive, innocent and disingenuous genus of half-baked pharmacists which is, fortunately, rapidly disappearing with the new and higher entrance requirements to schools of pharmacy, to whom every bit of the most elementary and puerile information sounds like a fairy tale. We certainly do not see how such a work could be of much use to a student of the better class of our medical schools. The information contained therein can be gleaned from any textbook on pharmacology and the title "Toxicology" is somewhat misleading. The modern scientist classes toxicology with pharmacology and when the term toxicology is used specifically it is generally meant to stress the chemical side of the subject. That is to our surprise the very aspect which the author himself, primarily a chemist, seems to have overlooked, for while the résumés of various drugs or poisons dealt with give a brief description of their pharmacological effects, pathological findings and treatment, there is no reference to chemical toxicology or the methods for detection of poisons, which most texts entitled Toxicologies lay stress upon. The most readable chapter in the book is that on poison gases to which forty pages are devoted and which conveys information not usually to be found in textbooks on pharmacology. That is probably due to the special experience of the author on the subject and accounts for the disproportionate amount of space devoted to it in this book. There are certain textbooks of very concise and condensed character such as Schmiedeberg's Pharmacology, Authenrieth's "Detection of Poisons" and Prof. Friedrich Müller's "Compendium of Internal Medicine," which have become scientific classics. We cannot class the work before us in the same category.—De V.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Contributions to Knowledge and Value of Capsella Bursa Pastoris*, Moench—a dissertation for attaining the Doctor's degree, submitted to the faculty of the University of Hamburg, by Fritz Boeckmann, Wilmersdorf, Germany. Receipt is acknowledged to the Institute of Applied Botany, Hamburg. The copy received is not the complete thesis, the Dean, Dr. Lohmann, reports that the latter has been properly filed. Shepherd's purse was employed in place of ergot and hydrastis

during the War, on account of drug shortage. The candidate makes grateful acknowledgment of assistance rendered and outlines his years of schooling and training.

The Hamburg Institute for Applied Botany is under the direction of Dr. G. Bredemenn, to whom we are indebted for the annual reports (in one volume) from July 1917–June 1924.

*Dissertation on Urginea maritima* by WILHELM BARTHELS, Altona, Germany. The work is in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctor's degree at the University of Hamburg. The contribution is dedicated to Hertha Krauel, deceased. The work represents research and laboratory investigations and is accompanied by a bibliography of a hundred or more references.

*Contribution to Research on Chrysarobin and Methods of Determination*. An abstract from a dissertation for the award of the Doctor's degree at the University of Hamburg by Hans Karl Jenrich. The candidate studied pharmacy at Marburg and passed the state pharmacy examination in 1923. Microchemical methods are reported on in this work.

*Investigation of Gymnocladus Chinensis*, Baill. By WERNER BUCKOFZER, Hamburg. Part of a dissertation filed in the library of the University of Hamburg. The work is in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctor's degree. The candidate entered pharmacy in 1919, came to the University of Freiburg and, in 1923, he passed the state pharmacy examination.

*Investigation of Ammoniac*. Special attention is given to ammosesinol—an inaugural dissertation in fulfilment of the requirement for the Doctor's degree at the University of Basel, by IDA MICHEL, of Basel. The suggestion for this work was made by Prof. Dr. H. Zörnig, head of the Pharmacy Institute of the University of Basel and the work was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Dr. P. Casparis. The candidate thanks her preceptors. The candidate entered the University in 1921 and passed an examination for pharmacist in the year following and received practical experience in "Sevogelapotheke" (Dr. C. E. Markees). Studies were continued at the Institute and in 1925 she passed the state pharmacy examination and in the spring of 1926 the work presented in the thesis was begun.

A history of Ammoniac is given; the greater part of the report is concerned with Ammoniac resinol in which the methods of Casparis are proved and in certain particulars improved upon. The dissertation closes with the author's conclusions, a summary and references to the important steps of the investigation.

*Medical Specialties and Their Regulations.* By ERWIN WINCKELMANN. Published by A. Deichertschen Verlagsbuchhandlung, D. W. Scholl, Königstrasse, Leipzig, Germany. Price, Mk. 6.80. Dr. Winckelmann is a pharmacist and member of the National Assembly. The work presented is the result of conferences and discussions with pharmacists, physicians and those engaged in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries anent proposed legislation regulating the practice of pharmacy and the sale of medicines and poisons. While concerned with German activities there is much of general interest and information and, therefore, this notice is given. The subjects are considered under three general divisions: General, Special, and Thoughts Relative to Development. The first includes an historical account of the establishment and development of the manufacture and trade in medicinal preparations; the growth and development of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries; the establishment of the pharmaceutical specialties.

In the second part the several activities discussed in the former receive further consideration. The chapters deal with the physician and specialties, wholesale and specialty trade, the pharmacy and the specialties, the public and the specialties, the food laws, the pharmacists own remedies, regulations and laws applying to specialties, international regulations and laws, and regulations in Germany and other countries.

Dr. Winckelmann has given thoughtful study to the subject and he presents the matter in a most interesting way; details are given whenever necessary and a number of the chapters are followed by relevant questions that have received consideration by the author.

*Heil- und Gewurz-Pflanzen* (Plants Yielding Drugs and Spices), prepared under the direction of Dr. Karl Boshart, Munich, Germany, being contributions of the German Horticultural Society in the interest and promotion of drug plant industry in its several divisions. The publishers are Dr. F. P. Datterer & Co., Freising-Munich. Advantageous prices may

now be obtained by subscribers; after completion of the work, the price will be higher.

All of the contributors are well and favorably known in their respective fields. The 10th volume is in preparation. It is impossible to give space for an index of all the volumes and reference to a few of the contributions in Volume I will indicate the comprehensiveness of the work. Among the names of contributors are the following well known to pharmacists of this country: G. Edel, T. F. Hanausek, R. Kobert, Th. Meyer, R. Rapp, E. Schmidt, A. Tschirch, F. Wagner, H. Zörnig. The subjects cover a wide field; weather and climate in drug culture, technic of drying, drug mills, collection of drugs, seeding machines, culture of drug plants, prices of drugs, the soil, articles on different varieties of plants as to constituents and properties, buildings required, substitutes for other drug plants, native drug plants.

It is safe to say that no other work covers this particular field and industry so thoroughly.

*Aus der Geschichte der Pflanzenwelt in Wort und Bild.* (History and Picture of the Plant World.) By HERMANN PETERS. Society for the History of Pharmacy, published by Arthur Memayer; L. A. Kitter, distributor, 45 Sternwartenstrasse, Leipzig, Germany.

Many of our readers are members of the Society and they are also acquainted with Peters' "History of Pharmacy." All of the publications issued by the Society have value and interest and are well worth the cost of membership in it; these have been heretofore referred to or mentioned in the Historian's report. The publication referred to at this time is printed on paper which permits of very good imprints of the illustrations. The frontispiece is an excellent half-tone of Hermann Peters, who died in 1920, aged 72 years. The foreword sketches the historian; in the introductory references are made to pictures and sculpture in which plant life is depicted and particularly the connection with medical properties; the appraisal of the plant in different countries and association with legendary history. The introduction includes a number of reproductions of early art; the first one shows the cave dwellers; an Assyrian king in a grape arbor in which the date palm is shown and another is a picture in stone of Syrian plants. Illustrations throughout the book are interesting and include many of the drug plants in lore and early historical connections.

Two reprints have been received of articles that appeared in the *Apotheker-Zeitung*—by DR. C. HAHMANN, of the Institute of Applied Botany at Hamburg—one, dealing with Condurango bark and the other on accidental and intentional substitution of herbs, leaf and flower drugs; the number considered represents a long list, among them belladonna, stramonium, hyosciamus, senna, etc.

Bibliography of the publications from the laboratories and clinics of the Peking Union Medical College and Hospital for the period from July 1, 1926 to June 30, 1927. We find in the list some familiar names—K. K. Chen, Bernard F. Read, C. T. Feng, John Cameron, all of whom are occasional contributors to the JOURNAL OF THE A. PH. A. The listing is both in Chinese characters and English titles.

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#### ABSTRACTS OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

##### COD-LIVER OIL FLAVORING.

*Flavoring Medicinals.* B. H. SMITH—*Drug Markets*, 23 (1928), 117. Through *Squibb's Abstract Bulletin*. Ways and means of offsetting or making unpleasant taste, bitterness, saltiness or astringency are enumerated. Licorice, sugar and saccharin are most often used in bitter medicinals; for quinine, yerba santa, also sarsaparilla and the "bright" flavors such as tincture of cardamon and the compound spirit of orange are of value. With salines, lemon is particularly useful with Epsom salts; others of value are vanillin, essence of almond, fruits of pineapple, etc. Sugar or glycerin and spicy flavors can be used to advantage for astringents; cinnamon and blends of cinnamon, clove and pimento are recommended for flavoring. To mask the flavor of cod-liver oil, blends of the essential oils are used. Cinnamon and wintergreen or cinnamon with other oils such as clove, mace cardamon, fennel have been suggested. Coriander is especially valuable as a blender with other oils. Cocoa and chocolate have proven very effective in disguising cod-liver oil preparations. For toothpastes with a soapy base a blend of strong flavors is required such as menthol, peppermint, spearmint and anise. In masking the taste of medicinal preparations it is well to remember that certain flavors have precisely the opposite effect, the author notes; as, for example, oil of celery emphasizes the fishy flavor of cod-liver oil. Medicine taken in tablets and aromatic

tablets is made more pleasant by spraying the essential oils on the tablets which contain enough starch so that the oil is readily absorbed. An agreeable taste depends upon the use of substances that change the viscosity of the product, as glycerin. The same result, e. g., the delay in the intimate contact with the organs of taste and the less easy spread of the preparation, is obtained by emulsification, for which purpose gum tragacanth or gum acacia, or preferably a mixture of the two is used.—J. P.

##### ACTIVE PRINCIPLE OF LIVER.

*The Liver-Substance against Pernicious Anemia.* K. FELIX—Aerztlicher Verein München. meeting (July 7, 1928); through *Munch. med. Wochschr.*, 75 (1928), 1573; through *Squibb's Abstract Bulletin*. The active substance of liver can be isolated to a certain extent, when the water-soluble extracts are separated into various fractions by a procedure worked out in fermentative hydrolysis of proteins. When the histidine fraction here considered is again precipitated under different conditions, a series of inactive accompanying substances can be removed. 50—80 mg. of the preparation thus obtained is as active as 200 Gm. of liver. It gives no biuret reaction and contains no simple peptides. Its N-content is 12%. The diazo reaction is the only strong albumen color reaction. A discussion followed at the meeting regarding the various hypotheses of its function in pernicious anemia.—E. G.

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##### CABINET OFFICERS GIVEN RIGHT OF DISMISSAL IN ERGOT SUIT BROUGHT BY IMPORTER.

Justice Jennings Bailey of the District of Columbia Supreme Court, on November 7th, granted a motion of Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, and William M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture, to dismiss a suit for injunction brought against them by Howard W. Ambruster, a New York importer, alleging that the officials were permitting the importation of adulterated and misbranded ergot to the detriment of his business. "To grant the relief sought," said Justice Bailey, "would be to interfere with the discretionary powers of the cabinet officers and would be to substitute the judgment of the court for that vested by law in those officials."