

tax to handle the drugs. There are also manufacturers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and other classes, making a total of 315,000 registrants."

#### CHAIN STORE PROBE SOUGHT.

A bill directing the Federal Trade Com-

mission to investigate chain stores and their methods of purchasing and selling, with a view of ascertaining if these methods violate any of the Federal antitrust laws, was introduced in the House to-day by Representative George R. Stobbs of Massachusetts.

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Condensed Review of Pharmacy.* By GEORGE W. FIERO, Ph.C., B.Sc. Second edition revised and enlarged. 104 pp. George W. Fiero, publisher, Los Angeles, Calif. Price \$2.00.

The author states in the preface that "The object of the work is to furnish the College of Pharmacy graduates with a complete condensed compend of the drugs, chemicals and preparations of the United States Pharmacopœia, Tenth Revision, and the National Formulary, Fifth Edition." The subject matter is subdivided into five parts—(1) Practical Pharmacy; (2) Galenical Pharmacy; (3) Materia Medica; (4) Toxicology and (5) Elementary Chemistry. Part one defines pharmaceutical operations, outlines pharmaceutical calculations, prescription abbreviations and solubilities in an elementary manner. Thus we find under pharmaceutical operations, "Distillation is the process of converting a liquid to a gas and condensing the gas to a liquid again." Many other definitions of loose construction are present throughout the work. Under prescription abbreviations, the abbreviation b. i. d. and q. i. d. for two and four times a day are given, but the common abbreviation t. i. d. for three times a day is omitted. Following the title, "Solubilities of Important U. S. P. Chemicals," the solubilities of approximately 55 chemicals in water, alcohol and glycerin are tabulated. The English title is frequently used to designate the chemical, in some cases partial abbreviations are employed, one Latin title and two trade names are used. The solubility of calcium bromide is given but not calcium chloride, that of camphor is given but not that of thymol or menthol, etc.

Part II treats of galenical pharmacy. The official galenical preparations are tabulated according to Latin title (sometimes abbreviated), active constituents, therapeutic properties and doses. The use of abbreviations to designate therapeutic action varies greatly. In a single table, alternative is abbreviated as "alt." and "alter.;" diuretic as "Diuret." and "Diur." and expectorant as "Exp." and

"Expt." and "Expect." Numerous other illustrations of inconsistency in the use of nomenclature, abbreviations and terms are present through the volume.

Part III on Materia Medica tabulates vegetable drugs, active plant constituents, animal drugs, organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals and common names. The U. S. P. X vegetable drugs are tabulated morphologically, giving Latin title, synonyms, botanical source, habitat, constituents, properties, dose and preparations. The N. F. Drugs are arranged in the same manner but only the Latin title, botanical source, use and dose are given. The treatment of chemicals is exemplified by the following illustration. "Chemical, Ac. Oleicum Red Oil  $C_{17}H_{35}COOH$ —Preparation, from Fats, Oils—Prop., Dose, for Oleates." A rather extensive synonymy table is offered at the end of this part, however, it is not cross indexed so cannot be used for ready reference.

Part IV entitled "Toxicology" gives some loosely constructed toxicological definitions, a very brief résumé of emetics, stimulants, etc., and a short summary of some common poisons with symptoms and treatment. Part V attempts to summarize elementary chemistry in three pages. This part of the book might better have been omitted. The book is apparently designed to present to candidates a condensed summary of memorization material for use in preparation for State Board Examinations. It has little value as a reference or compend to the official standards. The preface would better represent the work if the word complete were omitted from the statement "... a complete condensed compend ..."

GLENN I. JENKINS.

*Peking Union Medical College Formulary, 1927.* Peking, China. The Foreword informs that the Formulary is published by the Hospital Committee of the Peking Union Medical College. Two principal reasons have prompted the publication of the Formulary—to promote the teaching of rational drug therapy within