

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Folklore of the teeth* by DR. LEO KANNER, recently published by the Macmillan Co., can be heartily recommended as a pleasing and profitable supplement to the library of the dentist as well as others who are interested in science. From the tales of customs and traditions the book contains, the dentist can find a valuable guide to the apprehensions and superstitions of his patient. The successful dentist must know how to relieve pain and how to overcome fear. Certainly when he studies these productions of folklore from all the races, accumulated for thousands of years, he can more clearly understand and master those fears which make his work at the chair difficult.

One wonders at the astounding amount of material Dr. Kanner has gathered from every conceivable source. He has divided this material into six parts. The first part deals with the superstitions concerning quality and position of the teeth as well as their time and succession. Any deviations from the rule were thought to predict the future and be of great significance. Other topics in this section are the golden teeth of folklore, relating the amusing fate of the Silesion boy; prophylaxis and therapy of dentition in which are told of strange methods to prevent uneasy teething in infants and also of the fate of cast milk teeth. In the chapter on cast deciduous teeth, Dr. Kanner brings to attention the fact that the same customs and ideas obtain with various races who do not have contact with each other and who differ entirely in their civilization. He gives the disposal of shed milk teeth as an outstanding example of this paradigm.

In Part 2, which is designated "Popular Dental Hygiene," the general appreciation of healthy teeth is shown by all races throughout the ages; the use of mastic, betel and gambir as cleansing agents; and the folklore and cultural history of the toothpick and toothbrush. The author here tells the story of the trochilus playing a prophylactic rôle for the crocodile. When leeches invade the mouth of the crocodile it swims to the bank and lies with jaws agape, whereupon the bird enters and removes the leeches while the crocodile lies still in order not to harm the bird. Truly a strange sight. Part 3 relates to "Toothache and Its Cure." This portion of the book is particularly amusing. Among other folk etiology, Dr. Kanner introduces us to Bitoso, The Fasting—the toothache demon who in the shape of a worm penetrates the tissues, producing toothache. This

part includes the history of the legion of cures—plant, animal, inorganic and charms in detail. Included also is the rôle of St. Appolonia as patroness of toothache; procedures of transferring toothache and dental surgery.

The next part deals with artificial deformation of the teeth as practiced to a great extent by the colored races with whom the contrast of skin and teeth brings the teeth into prominence. The teeth of all the organs are frequently and variously mutilated and the book details these deformations in chapters on non-therapeutic removal of teeth, pointed teeth and prongs, amputation of the crown and coloration of teeth.

In Part 5 Dr. Kanner discusses teeth as used outside of the oral cavity—as tools, drugs, charms, relics, souvenirs and jewelry. The book closes with a miscellaneous section, including appendages, bibliography and glossary.

WALTER L. OGGESSEN, D.D.S.

*Standard Methods of the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health.*—AUGUSTUS B. WADSWORTH, M.D. 704 pages. Price \$7.50, Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1927. These methods have been in a more or less complete type-written form for about ten years. As such they have been subject to constant revision, correction and addition. In some instances they have been taken from the "Standard" Methods of the American Public Health Association with due acknowledgment. There are many local laboratories throughout the state of New York which are doing work connected with public health activities. Those laboratories which meet certain standards are approved by the Central Laboratory (106 standing approved in 1927). In general these methods are in use in all of the approved laboratories and they have now been printed for the use of these laboratories and others interested. Since the methods are not established by law they are subject to constant revision and criticisms are requested from users. The book includes methods used in the Department for the Preparation of Media and Glassware, the Laboratories for Sanitary and Analytical Chemistry, the Research, Publications and Library Department, the Antitoxin, Serum and Vaccine Laboratories, the Diagnostic Laboratories and the Executive Offices. Each of these sections is edited or written by a separate assistant of Dr. Wadsworth. The

methods are given in such detail that diagnosticians and technicians with moderate experience should be able to follow them and obtain satisfactory results. Most of the directions are sufficiently explicit for beginners, especially if working under the eye of a director. This is not true of the chapter on water analysis which is inadequate for practice without the aid of reference books. No other single book within the reviewer's knowledge contains so much practical information concerning the laboratory technique required in a public health laboratory. Its range of usefulness would have been wider if methods for determining the phenol coefficient had been described. The book should be in every laboratory where routine examinations of diagnostic materials are made.—L. E. WARREN.

*A Manual of Materia Medica and Pharmacology.* By DAVID M. R. CULBRETH, Ph.G., M.D. Seventh Edition. 1046 pages, 497 illustrations. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia. \$8.00. This compilation, now in its seventh edition, is familiar to a large number of pharmaceutical workers. Being, as it is, a compilation, it is subject to the errors of its references. Fortunately, however, the author has corrected the majority of outstanding errors so noticeable in previous editions. Some, however, still remain, as for example, the thecaphore of cubeb (page 145) is said to be a stigma remnant, which naturally is impossible, the stigma remnant being upon the opposite end of the fruit. Fairly recent researches have for the most part been recognized in its revision although some, especially those relating to constituents, have been overlooked. Worthy of especial comment is the introduction of a part devoted to non-pharmacopœial organic carbon compounds.

The new edition includes an introduction, six parts and an appendix. The introduction, similar to that of previous editions, concerns itself with definitions and classifications and is well done. The classifications are logical and orderly, simple and understandable giving the student that fundamental knowledge so necessary to an understanding of the subject. Part I is confined to organic drugs from the vegetable kingdom and follows the taxonomical arrangement of Engler with some slight deviations. Only pharmacopœial drugs are discussed to any great length, those of the National Formulary being included with allied non-officials as appenda to the monographs. The monographs on pharmacopœial drugs have,

however, an abundance of facts crowded into them, often at the expense of clarity, due to excessive abbreviation. Parts II, III and IV are concerned with animal drugs, inorganic compounds and organic compounds, respectively. In form, etc., they simulate those of previous editions. Part V is a new addition and includes non-pharmacopœial organic compounds. This addition is a happy one as most writers and, unfortunately, some educators neglect this phase confining themselves to official substances only. Part VI concerns the use of the microscope. It seems to this reviewer that this chapter is somewhat out of place, as the book throughout its text concerns itself only very slightly with histological pharmacognosy. The part itself includes a great deal of unimportant information as to the parts of the microscope, etc. Important information as to pharmacognostical micro and micro-chemical technique is either entirely omitted or so briefly stated as to make its information confusing. The appendix as in previous editions, treats of poisons, their treatment and antidotes, prescription writing and tables.

The title page of this book states it to be designed for students of pharmacy and medicine, as well as for druggists, pharmacists and physicians. There is no doubt that a wealth of information is included between its covers and that the book is, unquestionably, a handy and useful reference volume. As a textbook, however, due to its lack of emphasizing important details it is of questionable value unless used as reference reading accompanying a lecture course. As to its use in medical schools this reviewer has no information but from the viewpoint of its use as a *textbook* for students of pharmacy it seems unsuited for several reasons. Some of these are as follows:

1. Far too much information is included in the monographs. Important details are not stressed and the student is unable to pick out the important items relative to each drug.
2. Only pharmacopœial drugs are stressed, N. F. drugs being placed with other allied non-officials in brief paragraphs at the ends of the monographs or family groups.
3. Habitats are as a rule poorly stated, confusing and fail to give the student any fixed opinion as to the geographical source of the drug. For example, under Coca: "Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, eastern slopes of the Andes, (Columbia, Brazil, India, Ceylon, Java); cultivated." No doubt most of the coca to-day comes from cultivated plants. Does the state-