

At a meeting of the officers of the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association plans were made for the annual meeting to be held in Clinton, April 21st-22nd. The prospects are for large attendance.

Maine Pharmaceutical Association held a mid-winter meeting Friday, February 13, 1931, at Augusta House, Augusta, Me.

NEW YORK PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

Members of the New York Pharmaceutical Conference have elected Harry H. Miller, New Rochelle, N. Y., as president of the organization for the third consecutive year. Other officers elected are: *First Vice-President*, Harry Goldschmidt; *Second Vice-President*, Samuel Dreyer; *Third Vice-President*, Albert Friedman; *Secretary*, George S. Harkavy and *Treasurer*, S. S. Dworkin.

The Conference has a campaign under way to raise \$50,000 for the relief of needy and unemployed pharmacists of the city; to aid in this, a banquet was held January 25th at the Hotel Commodore, at which time more than \$7000 were raised. The fund will be in charge of a special distributing committee composed of Thomas J. McHugh, R. D. Keim, Dr. H. V. Army, Dr. S. W. Wynne, I. H. Bander, A. R. M. Boyle and H. H. Miller.

Among the speakers at the banquet were: Charles H. Tuttle, former U. S. Attorney; Shirley W. Wynne, Health Commissioner and Samuel Antonow. More than 1500 were present at the banquet.

NORTHERN OHIO DRUGGISTS ASSOCIATION.

President Julius H. Riemenschneider of the N. A. R. D. was the guest of honor at the annual installation of officers of the Northern Ohio Druggists Association, January 8th, held in the rooms of Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. The officers for 1931 are: *President*, Peter Kadel; *First Vice-President*, Joseph Matousek; *Second Vice-President*, Erwin Steiner; *Sergeant-at-Arms*, S. J. Sternicki,

Abraham Butnik; *Board of Control*, Walter G. Conrad, Albert P. Gegenheimer, Joseph Matousek and Eugene Remy.

DETROIT RETAIL DRUGGISTS ASSOCIATION.

Bernard Bialk, Secretary of the Detroit Branch of the A. Ph. A. was reelected President of the Detroit Retail Druggists Association at its recent annual meeting. The other officers of the Association are:

First Vice-President, Adam Pryzyblski; *Second Vice-President*, Stan Rogers; *Treasurer*, George E. Doyle; *Executive Committee*: Clare F. Allan, Fred C. Bellemoere, Joseph J. Burniac, J. M. Ciechanowsky, A. J. Filer, Max Kritt, Leo J. LaCroix, J. Ed. Richardson, Paul Saylor and E. P. Tobin.

OFFICERS PHILADELPHIA DRUG EXCHANGE.

The following officers were elected by Philadelphia Drug Exchange for the ensuing year: *President* (reelected), John F. Belsterling; *Vice-President* (reelected), Harrison S. Hires; *Secretary* (reelected), Joseph W. England; *Treasurer*, F. L. Bodman. The following directors were elected: E. L. Brendlinger, Alexander C. Fergusson, Jr., H. K. Hineline, Herbert R. McIlvaine, Walter P. Miller, J. Mervin Rosenberger, Walter V. Smith and Benjamin S. Thorp.

The Exchange had its annual dinner in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Thursday evening, January 29th. A musical program was given during the dinner. Afterward Utley E. Crane, municipal court judge, spoke on "From Washington to Hoover—and Whither," and the Rev. Ross H. Stover spoke on "Mixed with Drugs."

Prof. Louis Saalbach spoke before the Pitcairn Kiwanis Club, February 5th, on "The History of Pharmacy;" three members who studied under Professor Saalbach were in attendance—David P. Lutz, J. Lloyd Grimm and Fred Woods.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Bioassays—A Handbook of Quantitative Pharmacology. By JAMES C. MUNCH. X plus 958 pages. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore. Price \$10.00.

The title and subtitle indicate the double point of view of the book: bioassay, the prac-

tical assay of samples of medicines; and quantitative pharmacology, an instrument and object of scientific investigation; the bioassay which aims to standardize the Known; and the quantitative pharmacology which looks to the discovery of the Unknown. The

latter is coextensive with pharmacologic research, which eventually turns to the quantitative, the ambition of all science. The reactions of the living body with chemical substances offer an infinity of problems of absorbing scientific interest as well as of great practical significance to the human race, and the field of pharmacologic research is being cultivated with great intensity. As the problems shift and vary, new methods and points of view are developed. The theory of yesterday becomes the practice of to-day, the historical of to-morrow, then, the obsolete, and sometimes again the starting point of the new. In the bewildering activity of science, a knowledge of what has been done, a command of the "literature," becomes more and more imperative, but more and more difficult of attainment. Research runs in danger of being smothered by the products of its activity, unless it devises methods of organizing these products so as to render them reasonably accessible. One of the most practical methods of this orientation remains their digestion, critical selection and systematic orientation by experienced workers in the field. The present volume belongs to this class.

The book is a well-arranged guide to the extensive literature of quantitative pharmacology, sufficiently detailed to show the present status of each subject, and to orient the reader in the general directions and specific sources where further information may be sought. The presentation of the individual citations is generally objective rather than critical, but the "conclusions" at the end of each topic supply the welcome opinions of a man who is experienced in the field. There is no attempt to exhaust the papers; much of the material is presented in the numerous tables (which would be improved by citing the sources of the information in the tables themselves, instead of requiring the user to search through the text); but for details, especially of the methods, the reader is remanded to the original papers, which are presented by the systematic bibliographies of over 5000 titles, and by extensive and convenient indices. The general avoidance of exhaustive (and exhausting) detail of technic is an aid to orientation, although it may be a disappointment to the technician, to the inexperienced seeker of the rule of thumb, who is looking for a short cut to the little knowledge that is a source of self-deception. This is one of the recommendations of the

book. In bioassaying, as in other laboratory work, there is room for the honest technician, who, under competent supervision, acquires more or less insight into the subject; but the intelligent application of quantitative pharmacology to any task requires something more than a sheet of working directions. It demands a critical judgment, based on a sound grasp of fundamental principles, plus a broad knowledge of the literature, plus a specialized experience, plus good sense. Those who possess the last and first of these qualifications will find the book a valuable aid in acquiring the literature and the experience. It fills a place that has hitherto been vacant, and it fills it well. It is a credit to the author, whose labor has been well expended to the benefit of the subject and of the serious workers in the field.—TORALD SOLLMANN.

The Chemist and Druggist Diary, 1931. Sixty-third year of publication. Chemist and Druggist, London.

"*The Chemist and Druggist Diary* has many merits, but it excels in the progressiveness which takes the form of adaptation to and provision for new requirements in pharmaceutical business and practice. In this issue all the standing features, notably the Buyers' Guide and the Legal Section, have been brought up-to-date. The familiar list of registered formulas has perished in the massacre of the innocents by the Board of Customs and Excise, but as a succedaneum we are given a selection of American Formulas. There are two excellent illustrated articles, *viz.*, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Apparatus, and The Optician's Workshop, which reveal to what an extent machinery has superseded manual operations in these industries, and every literary page contains something of practical value to the practising pharmacist."

The foregoing review is quoted from another publication, because it briefly, although not very completely, speaks of the *Chemist and Druggist Diary*. The book contains much information for the British pharmacists relating to laws, educational institutions, associations, etc. Its publication for 63 years speaks for its value.

DEATH OF DEAN E. V. HOWELL.

Just before closing this issue we have advice of the death of Dean E. V. Howell, Chapel Hill, N. C.