

voluminous works in German and French, the writers' task has been partly to collect, select, summarize, and unify, so far as expedient, results on the composition of a great variety of products scattered through numerous journals, and partly to add their own contributions, largely hitherto unpublished, on the gross and microscopic structure of these products."

"Special stress is laid on the relation of structure to chemical composition, which is analogous to that of animal anatomy to physiology, one being incomplete without the other."

"The products described—cover a broad geographical range—oriental and occidental, temperate and tropical. Analytical methods and vitamins, adequately treated elsewhere, are not included."

"No emphasis is placed on the application of the subject matter in any one particular field; it is presented as general information for any who may have need."

The authors also have stated succinctly the pattern by which they organized their material:

"The plan followed in this and succeeding volumes is quite simple. The classification is *first* by economic groups as shown on the covers and title pages, *second* by parts—fruits, seeds, leaves, etc., *third* by families, *fourth* by genera, and *fifth* by species.—After brief statements of origin, habitat, botanical relationships, and uses, the scientific subject matter is treated under three main heads: (1) macroscopic structure, with due regard to morphology; (2) microscopic structure, which is equivalent in most cases to histology or morphology of tissues; and (3) chemical composition of the natural product and when practicable, its parts separated mechanically whether in the laboratory or in the factory."

A further guiding principle was expressed in the words: "Too great emphasis cannot be laid on the importance of studying each morphological part by itself whenever it is possible to effect a separation. An investigation carried out, for example, on a mixture of starchy endosperm and oily embryo is as unscientific as an analysis of a mixture of a mineral crystal and its matrix."

These precepts have been well adhered to, consequently the volume is a well-organized compendium of a vast amount of specific in-

formation hitherto largely scattered. More restricted in scope than Wehmer's *Die Pflanzenstoffe*, the presentation is less condensed, hence more readable. The illustrations, all originals by the authors, are a monumental contribution to the subject and visualize for the lay reader the otherwise unintelligible descriptions of morphology and histology. In fact they constitute the outstanding feature of the book. Another valuable characteristic is the extensive documentation by footnote references to original sources which, like the introductory acknowledgments, shows that the authors have indeed covered "a broad geographic range."

While this treatise will appeal primarily to workers concerned with nutritional or industrial food problems, the pharmacist will also find much interesting and useful information, there being no real demarcation between foods and *materia medica*. This book would be valuable as a means of enlarging the general education of any pharmacist. Then, there is much information which should prove professionally important, for instance, the recent data on the occurrence of the minor ash constituents of foods, iron, copper, manganese, zinc, boron and others. The illustrations are an excellent supplement to texts on pharmacognosy. Of technical interest, too, are the sections dealing with the purified starches, the various fatty oils, the seeds of the mustard and rose families, of hemp, flax, poppy, etc. Even some poisonous plants, because of their association with foodstuffs, are discussed. In short, the reviewer heartily recommends this book to the pharmaceutical profession.—
ROLAND E. KREMBERS.

"*Prescription Department Sales Analysis in Selected Drug Stores.*"—Domestic Commerce Series No. 61, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, April 1932, pages 37. By FRANK A. DELGADO and ARTHUR A. KIMBALL. This is the first of a series of three publications to be released concerning the professional phase of the National Drug Store Survey, which has been conducted in St. Louis for the past year by the United States Department of Commerce in cooperation with 33 professional and trade associations of the drug industry. This report should be of value to all branches of the pharmaceutical profession and industry in solving some of the problems confronting them at this time.

The prescription departments of 13 retail

drug stores in St. Louis, including 11 independent stores and 2 chain store units, were the test laboratories. Both the professional and merchandising aspects of these prescription departments are carefully analyzed in this report. The study shows that the prescription department occupies an important place in drug store activities, comprising an average of nearly one-fifth of the sales in the 11 independent drug stores when considering both prescription business and non-prescription sales from the prescription department. Opportunities for increasing prescription department volume, without conflicting with the prerogatives of physicians, the ethics and the standards of the profession in any way, are pointed out in this report.

Among the subjects treated in this publication are the following: Share of prescription department in total sales volume, non-prescription sales from the prescription department, daily and annual prescription business by types, new and refill prescription business in 11 stores for six months, trend of sales from 1930 to 1931, seasonal demand for prescriptions, opportunities for sales increase; prescription department share in inventory; prescription price trends; high-priced prescriptions; form of prescriptions by type and by individual stores; liquid prescription sizes; skill required in prescription compounding; indication of size of capsule used; use of metric system for prescriptions; analysis of prescription business of eight stores, by physicians; legibility of prescriptions; extent of specification by physicians of galenicals of particular manufactures; extent of counter prescribing by druggists and dispensing by physicians; study of prescription ingredients; number of ingredients used; frequency of occurrence of ingredients; model prescription department; and list of leading ingredients.

The list of leading ingredients printed in this publication should be of particular value to manufacturers and wholesalers, as well as pharmacists and students, as a basic stock around which to mold the prescription department inventory. Practically all of the chemicals and galenicals were official, that is, listed in the United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary. Frequent mention of these two standard works is made throughout the report.

"Prescription Department Sales Analysis in Selected Drug Stores" is obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washing-

ton, D. C., priced at five cents a copy. The first printing is exhausted, but the second printing is now being made. Quantity discount was allowed on the first printing and it is possible that this may also be obtained on the second printing.

National Directory of Commodity Specifications.—The U. S. Department of Commerce issues a number of publications in the interest of all divisions of trades and professions. Service is always in evidence and studious care is exercised in selecting and compiling the information. Attention has been heretofore directed to publications that are sources of information for the drug-trade activities and pharmacy. Recently "National Directory of Commodity Specifications" has been revised and brought up-to-date. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is liberally quoted, most frequently in connection with standards for drugs, chemicals and preparations of them. The "National Formulary" is recognized as a standard and the "Pharmaceutical Recipe Book" is mentioned in connection with unofficial preparations but not recognized as a standard in the enforcement in the Federal Food and Drugs Act. The Directory is a valuable source of information for dealers and manufacturers regarding standards of all products and a reference to associations and other organizations engaged in work of the kind indicated.

TRANSPORTATION TO TORONTO MEETING,

Secretary E. F. Kelly and Secretary R. B. J. Stanbury are now preparing to send certificates to the members with further information about the meeting. These certificates will entitle members to buy excursion tickets at one and one-half fares for the round trip for themselves and members of their families, excepting from stations near Toronto, with low fares.

The tickets will be sold from August 12th to August 23rd on presentation of the identification certificates and will be good for return to the starting point for thirty days from the date of sale. Also, different routes for the going and returning journeys will be allowed. This will be the first time that this privilege of diverse routes on reduced fares has been allowed to meetings of our ASSOCIATION. The dates for the sale of tickets are arranged to cover the meetings of related organizations during the week preceding the convention.