

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Lehrbuch der Physiopharmakognosie für Pharmazeuten By RICHARD WASICKY, Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna. Part II, pages 335-915, 123 figs. and 1 col. illust. Paper bound. Carl Fromme, Vienna and Leipzig, 1932.

The second part of Dr. Wasicky's work presents a continuation of his discussion of drugs classified according to their physiological action and medicinal uses. In this volume, after a brief introduction, medicinal materials are considered under the following captions: Anthelmintics, cholagogues and cholericics, remedies for diseases of the respiratory tract, cardiacs, vascular remedies, diuretics, anti-diuretics, diaphoretics, anhydrotics, aphrodisiacs and anaphrodisiacs, blood and bone remedies, remedies for diseases due to faulty metabolism, styptics, specific remedies for infectious diseases, remedies for bladder diseases, for the treatment of eye maladies, for nose and ear troubles, for obstetrical and gynecological use, galactagogues, cutaneous remedies, remedies for the treatment of genital diseases, adjuvant remedies of prescriptions and other remedies, addenda and corrections.

Under many of these captions the author places subcaptions of drugs based upon similarity of their action or constituents, etc. For example, the caption of "Anthelmintics" is subdivided into *A*, Drugs of the *Filix* group, *B*, Anthelmintics with effective alkaloids, *C*, Cina and the group of drugs with anthelmintic effective ethereal oils, and *D*, "Drugs with unexplained anthelmintic action."

Both the greater and the lesser groups are discussed as to general peculiarities of the drugs included. There follows a separate discussion for each drug belonging to the group. Each important drug is first defined. After usually brief statements upon synonym, habitat, plant or animal, the culture and commercial varieties, the gross anatomical and histological features are considered. This is followed by a detailed consideration of the chemical properties of their constituents, the most active of which are described with the aid of graphic formulas. The adulterants and substitutes receive due attention. In some instances short historical notes upon the introduction of the drug and the isolation of its chief active constituents or other interesting information concludes the monograph.

The system of classification used by the

author differs from that usually found in Pharmacognosy texts, the concepts employed for many of its captions and subcaptions being quite original.

The histological features of many of the drugs are largely limited to outstanding structures while others are considered in more detail. No special consideration is given to the microscopy of the powdered article.

In the field of drug chemistry the work deserves particular commendation for it is in this least elaborated phase of most pharmacognosy texts that the author applies his greatest emphasis and exhibits a profound acquaintance with the subject.

The pages that he devotes to the saponins (pages 382-392) are rich with up-to-date information upon the subject in which he is an authority of the first magnitude.

The type is clear and many of the illustrations are well selected. It was somewhat surprising to note the unusual practice of placing the author citations of scientific names of plants and animals in italics, since this is not the accepted method of biologists.

The volume as a whole is of excellent merit and can be recommended as a reference to professional pharmacists, pharmaceutical chemists and workers in the field of pharmacognosy and plant chemistry.—H. W. YOUNGKEN.

The *Apotheker Kalender* for 1933. Issued by the German Apothecaries' Society. This annual publication is always welcome. The issue for 1933 is the 8th, and depicts a number of interesting historical events; it is printed on heavier paper than heretofore. For those who desire to use the illustrations as separate cards it is an improvement; for those who have been accustomed to preserve the *Kalender*, as in the past, the thinner paper may be preferred; this, however, does not detract from the artistic production of Dr. Fritz Ferchl who gives much time to this excellent work and places all pharmacists in debt to him for this service. On the cover is the reproduction of a portrait of Hulderich Wolfhardt, an apothecary of the 18th century. Other illustrations are engravings or wood cuts of notable personages in German pharmacy, exteriors and interiors of historic pharmacies and varied subjects of pharmaceutical interest. There are a number of interesting reproductions of manuscripts; for example, a letter of Karl Friedrich Mohr, apothecary, who contributed largely to the