

chemist who is asked for an article named in the Pharmacopœia by a name or synonym which appears in the Pharmacopœia ought to supply an article corresponding to the pharmacopœial standard; and, harsh though it may seem, there appears to be no reason to suppose that it would be any defense to him to say: "The article I supplied would have corresponded with the Pharmacopœia but for the fact that a new edition has been published which fixes an altered standard." Standards are altered—in theory at least—because in the opinion of the competent authority the altered standard is more desirable; and a pharmacist would surely be on poor ground in attempting to argue that the supply of an article corresponding to the presumably inferior standard of a former edition was an adequate compliance with the demand for an article named in the existing edition."

ONE RESULT OF ALTERED STANDARDS.

"It follows that, in theory, an inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts might within a few days after the publication of a new Pharmacopœia demand from a chemist an article the standard for which had been altered in that edition, and lay an information if he were supplied with an article which corresponded to the old but did not correspond to the new standard. Such an attempt would never be made, we assume, by any inspector with a proper view of his duties, nor should the local authorities sanction a prosecution in such circumstances. But, as chemists know to their cost, not all local authorities administer the Food and Drugs Acts with equal intelligence. There are still to be found districts in which the

authority appears to value its inspectors in proportion to the number of convictions which can be secured by trapping blameless chemists and other traders into committing technical offenses. Probably this is a risk which can never be wholly eliminated."

CONNECTICUT RESTRICTS USE OF WORD PHARMACY OR SYNONYM.

An Act concerning unauthorized use of the word "pharmacy" or synonym in Connecticut is quoted herewith:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

"Section 445a of the Cumulative Supplement of 1931 is amended to read as follows:

"Any person, firm or corporation owning, managing or conducting any store, shop or place of business not being a licensed pharmacy, exhibiting within or upon the outside of such store, shop or place of business, or including in any advertisement in a newspaper, book, magazine, circular or other printed matter, the words 'drug store,' 'pharmacy,' 'apothecary,' 'drug,' 'drugs,' 'medicine shop' or any combination of such terms or any other words indicating that such store, shop or place of business is a place where medicines are compounded, or exhibiting within or without such store, shop or place of business or in connection therewith any show bottle or globe of colored glass or filled with colored liquid, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both." H. B. 572. Public Health and Safety.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of Southern Africa. By JOHN MITCHELL WATT, M.B., Ch.B., Professor of Pharmacology in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and Maria Gerdina Breyer-Brandwijk, Phil. docta. (Utrecht), Apotheker (Utrecht). Formerly Junior Lecturer in Pharmacology and presently Research Worker in Phytochemistry in the Department of Pharmacology in the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 1933, pages xx + 314, 12 color plates and 20 illustrations. Price \$8.25. Publishers, William Wood and Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

This book is an answer to the botanist's, pharmacognosist's and pharmacologist's prayer. A wealth of crude drugs have been coming from South Africa, and the number of these products has been increasing in recent years. The standard reference books have given only meager information, or none at all upon most of the new materials. In certain toxicological cases circumstantial evidence has suggested the use of some African poisonous plant but confirmation has been impossible because of the lack of authentic information.

The authors have arranged a system whereby specimens of medicines, charms or poisons are

obtained, together with their histories and uses. This represents an important step in collecting information on these widely scattered products. Some of the medicinal plants have been used in the preparation of secret remedies, without any clear information regarding the action of the product employed. It has been the aim of the authors to record "all the available information on the medicinal uses, chemical composition, pharmacological effects and the human and veterinary toxicology of the flora of Southern Africa."

The contents are arranged in 128 botanical families, well illustrated by color plates and illustrations. Pertinent bibliographic references are given throughout the text and accompanied by 28 general references to African medicinal plants. An index of botanical names is followed by an index of English and African names and by an index of native names. This will be very useful in identifying products discussed in various reports. An index of active principles greatly facilitates reference to the contents of the volume.

A very extensive and complete survey of the medicinal and poisonous plants of Southern Africa is presented which should prove of great value in further studies in medicine, pharmacy, phyto-chemistry and toxicology. The authors have kindly offered to assist correspondents in tracing the identity of plants, and it appears that much attention will be given to this proffered assistance. It is hoped that the information collected on African charms may be published to supplement the meager information we now have along this line.—JAMES C. MUNCH.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS' ASSOCIATION.

Proceedings of the 58th annual meeting of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association held at Green Brier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., September 1932.—The "Proceedings" follow the usual lines of reporting and contain much information that has value to all divisions of the drug-trade activities. The reports are of particular interest and among them those of the legislative and of the publicity Committees. The "Principles of Business Conduct" as passed at the 12th annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States are included.

A valuable list is that of the publications issued by the Association, which includes bulletins which may be had from the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, 51 Maiden Lane, New York, N. Y. The mechanical part of the book is of the usual quality. A list of the officers is given and half-tones of the officers and Board of Control grace the pages.

Whitla's Pharmacy Materia Medica and Therapeutics, twelfth edition, revised by J. A. GUNN, Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Oxford, assisted by H. BERRY, head of the Department of Pharmacy, Birmingham, Central Technical College and J. CLIFFORD HOYLE, M.D., Medical Business Assistant and Administrator in Pharmacology, London Hospital, published by Wm. Wood & Co., Baltimore, price \$4.25. The appearance of this book in its twelfth edition speaks to that extent of its usefulness. *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* are outstanding subjects in this work of about 700 pages. Previous editions of the book have been reviewed in the JOURNAL.

The International Pharmaceutical Federation has published a Report of the International Committee on Specialties. The committee is composed of Drs. H. Thoms,¹ Berlin; A. Rising, Stockholm; H. Baggesgaard Ramsussen, Copenhagen; W. Herissey, Paris; L. Van Italie, Leyden; Dr. E. Weis, Vienna, in coöperation with Dr. E. Host Madsen, Copenhagen and Dr. E. Schulek, Budapest.

General assay methods are described and defined. This is a most valuable report on various methods and assay processes.

The Wellcome Research Institution and the Wellcome Foundation, Ltd., have issued a handsomely prepared illustrated booklet of the exhibits at the Chicago Exposition. Represented in the exhibit are the Bureau of Scientific Research, the Entomological Field Laboratories, the Physiological Research Laboratories, the Chemical Research Laboratories, the Historical Medical Museum and the Museum of Medical Science.

The Wellcome Research Institution and the Affiliated Research Laboratories and Museums were founded by Sir Henry Wellcome. Aside from being a directory of the exhibit the booklet contains much useful information.

¹ Deceased.