

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The following *reprints* have been received from B. E. Read, Division of Physiological Sciences, Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai.

"The Fluorine Content of Some Chinese Food Materials," E. Reid.

"The Effect of Donkey Skin Gelatin (Ah-chiao) upon Nutritional Progressive Muscular Dystrophy," T. G. Ni.

"Chemical Examination of Chinese Remedies for Nightblindness," Peter G. Mar and B. E. Read.

"The Variation of Vitamin C Content in Certain Fruits and Vegetables," by H. C. Hou.

"The Anthelmintic Action of Propyl Guaia-col," by C. Pak and B. E. Read.

"The Antipyretic Action of a New Antipyrine Derivative," C. L. Yi and B. E. Read.

"The Formation and Distribution of Vitamin C in the Germinating Pea, *Pisum Sativum* L." (Blue Bantam Variety), by W. Y. Lee.

"Vitamin C and Its Relation to Diseases," H. C. Hou.

"The Destruction of Ascorbic Acid in Water," by Hsiang-Chuan Hou.

"The Relation between the Antiscorbutic Activity and the Mode of Administration of Ascorbic Acid," by H. C. Hou.

"The Effect of Light on the Production and Distribution of Ascorbic Acid in Germinated Soy-Beans," by W. Y. Lee and B. E. Read.

*Toxicology or the Effects of Poisons.* By FRANK P. UNDERHILL, Ph.D., late Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Medicine, Yale University. Third edition, thoroughly revised by Theodore Koppanyi, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Materia Medica, cloth, pages xiii + 325, 20 x 14 cm. Price, \$2.50. P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Inc. Philadelphia, 1936.

Pharmacologists and toxicologists of this country will welcome the appearance of the third edition of Professor Underhill's concise and trustworthy guide in toxicological practice. This is especially true since its revision has been undertaken by Professor Koppanyi, whose experience eminently qualifies him to continue this work.

The original form and text, as far as compatible with the advance in Toxicology have been retained by the reviser. The book is divided into six general headings. The first treats of general toxicological concepts; the second discusses inorganic corrosive poisons;

the third embraces poisonous gases; the fourth includes metallic poisons; in part five, the alkaloidal poisons are discussed and the sixth division is concerned with a large number of miscellaneous organic poisons.

The general arrangement of the subject matter under the individual poisons is more or less uniform, consisting of the origin of the poisoning, symptoms, mechanism of poisonous action, fatal dosage, post-mortem appearances and treatment. That this subject matter is abreast of modern scientific toxicology is evidenced by the fact that, under mercuric chloride the sodium formaldehydesulfoxylate treatment is given; under cyanide poisoning, the nitrite-thiosulfate antidotal measures are included and the modern accepted dosage of picrotoxin in barbituric acid derivative-poisoning is discussed. The reviewer regrets, however, that the mechanism of the action of these antidotes is not included.

Pharmacologists and toxicologists know this useful volume and have it as a part of their armamentarium, but besides it should be a part of the library of every pharmacy, ranking next in importance to his national standards. With it he may save a life.—JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR.

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#### TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS FOR THE YEAR 1935.

The comprehensive report by H. J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics, covers the year ending December 1935. The Commissioner states that a problem which has proved most disquieting to the Bureau during the year is the rapid development of the wide-spread traffic in Indian Hemp (Marihuana). Attention is called to the fact that over 195 tons of this drug in the form of planks, flowering pots and cigarettes had been confiscated and destroyed by the various states during 1935. The Commissioner states that it is noteworthy that for every agent in the government field service there are ten convicted narcotic violators in the federal prisons. A situation which has caused the narcotic administration grave concern is the one in the far East relating to the narcotic problem. There is a possibility, to an alarming degree, of inundating the Western World with narcotics if more adequate steps are not taken to curb the traffic.