

agents are listed according to their tendency to stability, using lard (I. V. 54.2) and hydrogenated cottonseed oil (I. V. 66.7) as ointment bases: Mixed isopropanolamine-stearic acid, triisopropanolamine-stearic acid, soft soap, hard soap, borax.

Using hydrogenated cottonseed oils of different manufacturers, there seemed to be no distinct relationship between the iodine value and melting point and the tendency to deterioration.

On the other hand, there is a definite relationship between tendency to deterioration and iodine value of the same oil hydrogenated to different iodine values.

Hydrogenated sesame oil was found to be definitely superior to hydrogenated cottonseed oil of the same melting point as a base for potassium iodide ointment.

#### REFERENCE

- (1) "Hydrogenated Oil as an Ointment Base. II," *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 29 (1940), 18

## Book Reviews

*The Elements of Physico-Pharmaceutical Calculations*, by M. L. SCHROFF, A.B. Hons. (Cornell), M.S. (Mass.). Published by the U. P. Pharmaceutical Association, Dept. of Pharmaceutics, Benares Hindu University. 281 + ix pages; 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 5. Price 8s. 6d.

This book on physico-pharmaceutical calculations provides explanations and problems covering weighing, solutions of electrolytes, indicators in acidimetry and alkalimetry, oxidation and reduction, oxidation-reduction potentials, electrolysis, solubility product principle, gravimetric analysis, the gas laws and gas analysis, and evaporation and distillation. There is also an appendix comprising tables of international atomic weights, the solubility products of some salts, ionization constants of some acids and bases, indicators in general use, vapor pressure of water, specific gravity of strong acids and bases, specific gravity of aqueous ammonia, and logarithms. The presentation of the subject matter is clear and concise and is believed to be admirably suited to the needs of students. It contains a goodly number of excellent exercises and should be appreciated by teachers as well as students.—A. G. D.

*Manual of Prescription Writing*, by HAROLD N. WRIGHT. ii + 96 pages, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ . "Mimeographed" with spiral binding. Burgess Publ. Co., Minneapolis, 1939. Price, \$1.50.

This small volume considers the prescription from various angles. There is a short historical introduction followed by chapters on Latin nouns and adjectives, the form of the prescription, weights and measures and Latin abbreviations. The forms of medication are discussed and sample prescriptions are given. The book also discusses the laws governing prescriptions for narcotic and hypnotic drugs, incompatibilities, errors and certain medico-legal aspects of the prescription. It is believed that the book will prove a worth-while addition to the pharmacist's library.—A. G. D.

*The Vitamins*, by the Councils on Pharmacy and Chemistry and Foods, of the A. M. A. 637 pages, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ . American Medical Association, Chicago, 1939. Price, \$1.50.

A number of specialists in the field of nutrition have contributed to the writing of this volume and there are numerous bibliographical references and footnotes. It may be looked upon, therefore, as a source of authentic information on the vitamins. This book is a comprehensive discussion of the new food principles known as vitamins. The isolation of these principles and the synthesis of those which have been prepared by synthetic methods are discussed in detail. This discussion includes sources, chemistry, physiology, therapeutic use and assay. Because of the voluminous amount of material published on the vitamins in recent years and because this published information is frequently of a contradictory nature, the appearance of this book is most timely. It should be in the library of every pharmacist where it will serve as a source of reliable information.—A. G. D.

*The Pharmacopœia and the Physician*, under the sponsorship of United States Pharmacopœia and the American Medical Association, by 24 outstanding authorities as authors. Flexible binding, 353 pages, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ . American Medical Association, Chicago. Price, \$1.50.

This volume is a compilation of the 24 articles published in the series of papers entitled "The Pharmacopœia and the Physician" which appeared from time to time in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* from 1937 to date. There is a preface by Dr. Morris Fishbein in which the aims of the program are explained. Each of the 24 papers represents a rather complete and thorough discussion of the therapy of a certain disease or group of diseases and includes diagnoses, treatment and the drugs which may be prescribed. This is a useful little volume and should find a place in every pharmacist's library and on the desk of every physician. A second series of these articles is now appearing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.—A. G. D.

*Monograph on an Old Healing Plant, Solidago Virga Aurea L.* Dissertation by ROLF GNEKOW, pharmacist of Hamburg-Wandsbek. A thesis submitted to the Institute of Applied Botany, University of Hamburg, 1938. 100 pages, illustrated.—E. G. E.