

exhausted. There is still a great need for psychic medicine, and those who select any branch of the

healing art as a calling will do well to maintain a tolerant attitude toward this type of medication.

Book Reviews

Practice of Allergy, by WARREN T. VAUGHAN, M.D. Price, \$11.50, pages 1082, with 338 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1939.

This is the newest and most complete book on the subject of allergy. It contains 80 chapters dealing thoroughly with every phase of the subject. Take, for instance, the chapter on diagnosis which is typical of the thoroughness of which each phase of the subject is handled. In this chapter, history taking, testing and evaluation of findings are discussed. Detailed directions are given for carrying out all of the different techniques of testing including the less frequently used diagnostic procedures such as passive transfer, mucous membrane tests, patch tests, leucopenic index, elimination diets and the examination of nasal secretions. The botanical aspects of allergy are unusually well covered. The author has gathered and condensed all existing contributions to this field and has included atmospheric studies up to and including 1938. There are more than 100 photographs of plants, in addition to regional maps, charts and photomicrographs of pollen. There are four chapters on fungi and these are likewise well illustrated. Food allergy is given 138 pages and space is also given to drug, entomogenous, contact and physical allergies. The discussion of the therapy of allergies deals with all of the methods in use and summarizes the procedures used in allergic clinics throughout the country. The last section of the book is devoted to a systematic discussion of the major and minor allergic diseases—asthma, hay fever, migraine, dermatitis, urticaria, gastro-intestinal allergy, epilepsy, arthritis, otologic and ocular symptoms, etc. The pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and such forms of therapy as have not been touched upon in the other chapters are also presented. The closing chapters are a plea for the compilation of continuous life records of all persons, but particularly the allergies.—A. G. D.

The Tools of The Chemist. Their Ancestry and American Evolution, by ERNEST CHILD. 220 pages, 105 illustrations. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y., 1940. Price \$3.50.

This book has to do with the evolution of American chemistry in general and the tools used by the chemist. It represents a thorough documentary research on these subjects. The author has given a brief and interesting summary of the European background of American chemistry and has traced the early history of chemistry in this country. He has also reviewed the evolution of the apparatus

and instruments used by chemists during this period.

Part I deals with the pioneers and events in American chemistry. Among the persons mentioned are John Winthrop, Benjamin Rush, Joseph Priestley, Benjamin Silliman and Robere Hare.

Part II deals with the ancestry and development of chemical laboratory apparatus in America. It describes briefly the evolution of the balance, the history of the manufacture of glassware and porcelain, heating apparatus, metal appliances and optical instruments.

Part III deals with early American distributors of chemical laboratory apparatus.

The book is well illustrated, there is a good index and it will be found to be of interest to pharmacists as well as chemists.—A. G. D.

Hydrocarbon Chemistry. Reprinted from Transactions of the Faraday Society, 28, Part 8 (1939), 286 pages (806 to 1092). GURNEY & JACKSON, 98 Great Russell St., London, England. Price, 12s, 6d.

Hydrocarbon chemistry is considered under four main subdivisions. Part I deals with the homogeneous thermal reaction of hydrocarbons. The structure and energies of hydrocarbons are discussed. Several papers are presented on the mechanism of hydrocarbon reactions, particularly from the standpoint of Rice's free radical theory. In Part II, certain catalytic reactions are discussed. Part III deals with the mechanism of technical synthesis and the transformation of hydrocarbons. Papers on the catalytic high-pressure hydrogenation of carbonaceous material and the cyclization of aliphatic hydrocarbons are included. Part IV deals with the polymerization of olefins—dimerization, medium molecular weight polymers and high molecular weight polymers. The book is a notable contribution to our knowledge of hydrocarbons and should prove of interest to all organic chemists.—A. G. D.

Micro-Diffusion Analysis and Volumetric Error, by EDWARD J. CONWAY. 306 pages. Crosby Lockwood & Son, Ltd., London, England, 1939. Price, 25s.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part describes the apparatus and principles of diffusion analysis, and includes a discussion of the factors governing the rate and degree of quantitative transfer of the volatile substances, also a description of the pipettes and burettes used in microvolumetric analysis. The second part gives the directions for carrying out specific determinations, by the use of the micro-diffusion apparatus. The third part is a discussion of error in micro- and

macro-volumetric analysis. Whereas the book is intended primarily for biochemists, the treatment of the subject is such and the inclusion of the chapter on volumetric error makes it of interest to all analysts.—A. G. D.

Industrial Solvents, by IBERT MELLAN. 464 pages. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y., 1939. Price, \$11.

This book is principally a compilation of data from most of the important papers on solvents published in the journal literature and from contributions made by the manufacturers of solvents. The first seven chapters deal with the general phases of the subject and, in the following nine chapters, the individual members of each important class of solvents are described. There are numerous tables and charts. The final chapter deals with graphical expression and interpretation. The book should prove useful to pharmaceutical manufacturers.—A. G. D.

Die exacten Methoden der Mikromassanalyse. Die chemische Analyse. Volume 42. J. MIKA. Edited by W. Böttger. 180 pages. Ferdinand Enke Verlag, Hafenbergftele 3, Stuttgart, Germany, 1939. Price, paper, 18 marks; bound, 19.60 marks.

The author, who has contributed a number of papers on microvolumetric analysis, emphasizes the technique of microvolumetric analysis in this monograph. The book is divided into a general part of 100 pages and a special part of 70 pages. In the introduction, it is pointed out that an accuracy of 0.1 to 1 per cent is desirable in the determination of amounts of several milligrams of a substance. Because of this, thorough consideration is given to the determination of the equivalence point, and in Chapter II, the indicator correction and the potentiometric and conductometric titrations are discussed. Chapter IV deals with the apparatus used in microvolumetric analysis. In the special part, methods of neutralization, precipitation, complex formation and oxidation-reduction analysis are discussed and some practical applications are given. The binding of the book is bad, but it is believed that the material contained therein will be of value to workers in the field of microanalysis.—A. G. D.

Materia Medica, Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Prescription Writing (Fourth Edition), by WALTER ARTHUR BASTEDO, Ph.M., M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.P., Consulting Physician, St. Luke's Hospital, New York, St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island; President of the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention 1930-1940, Member Revision Committee U. S. Pharmacopoeia; Formerly Curator of the New York Botanical Garden; Attending Physician, City Hospital, New York; Instructor in Pharmacology, Cornell University. 778 pages, 81 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders, 1937. Price, \$6.50.

This edition of the book is dedicated to Henry Hurd Rusby, Botanist and Pharmacognosist, and the first teacher in *Materia Medica* of the author. The latter stated that the book is an adaptation, for the most part, of lectures delivered at Columbia University, and that he has drawn on researches in all the branches of medicine. The book is divided into three parts: The first treats of the constituents of organic drugs, pharmaceutical preparations, weights and measures, active principles, the Pharmacopoeia and the National Formulary, and of pharmacologic action in a general way. Part II treats of individual remedies and their actions and Part III deals with prescription writing and is therefore of particular interest to pharmacists. Most of the subject matter is arranged to make it easily accessible to physicians and pharmacists and for students and practitioners of medicine and pharmacy.—E. G. EBERLE

New and Nonofficial Remedies—1940, published by the American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois. Price, \$1.50.

This volume of more than 700 pages contains descriptions of the chemical and physical properties, tests for purity and potency, etc., of the articles which had been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association on January 1, 1940. In addition, the preface lists the articles described; this list is followed by the names of the members of the Council, a list of consultants and the official rules of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. The latter include rules for admission of proprietary articles, admissible advertising and names, patents, unscientific and therapeutically useless articles and a statement of policies of firms detrimental to rational therapeutics.—E. G. EBERLE

Law of Drugs and Druggists. A Treatise with Text, Cases, Statutes, Readings and Digests for Schools of Pharmacy, Retail, Wholesale and Manufacturing Druggists by WILLIAM R. ARTHUR, Professor of Law, University of Colorado. Second edition. Publishers: West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1940. About 600 pages. Maroon fabricoid. Price, \$3.00.

The treatise is designed especially for use as a textbook for schools of pharmacy and a reference book for retail pharmacists, wholesalers and manufacturers. Questions are answered on various phases of narcotic legislation, poisons, patent and proprietary preparations; laws relating to prescriptions and beverages; the position of a druggist in court, his testimony, damages, duty to customers, etc. The authors discuss federal, state and local laws, price fixing, advertising, postal regulation, distribution of samples, relation of employer and employee. There is a comprehensive index, cross index; the book has been thoroughly revised, a list of cases fills twelve pages. Where possible, a case is inserted to bring out the principles involved; in some presentations the laws of drugs are made which have no direct