tories is now incorporated as a college of the university, professors in the school of pharmacy becoming professors in the university.

One other development remains to be noticed—the Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1933, the outcome of a four-year inquiry—1926 to 1930—by a government-appointed committee to inquire into the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons. Some of the fruits of this Act are being gathered; the full harvest is to come. In addition to regulating further the sale of poisons and the manufacture of medicines containing them, the Act now makes the entire profession self-governing, subject to its own inspectorate and disciples, with minimum official supervision.

There are now few pharmacists who are not members of the Society—at the end of 1939 membership exceeded 24,500; about 600 apprentices enter the profession yearly. Two years' pupilage or apprenticeship is the minimum, with three academic years' training in botany, chemistry, zoology, pharmaceutics, pharmacognosy and physiology, the object being either the attainment of a university degree (B.Sc. or B.Pharm. = licencee) or qualification as a Pharmaceutical Chemist (3 years' training) or (2 years) Chemist and Druggist.

Education and practice in Great Britain has long since overflowed into all the British Dominions and Colonies were pharmaceutical societies and legislation on English lines have come into being.

Thus far has the practice of pharmacy progressed from the days of the Apothecaries Guilds and the unorganized Chemists and Druggists of the 18th century. Next year the Centenary of the Pharmaceutical Society will be celebrated. But for the war it would have been a royal celebration in the Society's new building now being completed in Brunswick Square, London, not far from the more familiar Bloomsbury Square which has housed pharmacy for almost a century.

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Book Reviews

Dissertation on *Solidago virga aurea L.*—a monograph based on research carried out for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Hamburg by ROLF GNEKOW of Wandsbek, near Hamburg, June 25, 1938.

This thesis of 100 pages divided into 8 parts begins with an introduction and is followed by sections on botany, systematic arrangement, habitat, growth, morphology, anatomical description, parts of the plant, germination and development. Synonyms, commercial distribution, etymology, etc., are discussed. The chemical part embraces the results of investigation of moisture, ash, tannin, ethereal oil and other constituents. Other subjects considered are extraction of the drug, history, pharmacology, therapeutic preparations, prescription uses and other combinations. Ten pages of illustrations show the structure of plant parts. The references might have been somewhat extended by including the U. S. Pharmacopœia of 1850, 1860 and 1870, and references to uses by early settlers in the United States and to the substitutions which were made when there were shortages of more commonly used drugs.—E. G. E.

Fruit Pectins. Their Chemical Behavior and Jellying Properties, by C. L. HINTON. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Great Britain), Food Investigation Special Report No. 48. vii + 96 pages. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., 148 Lafayette St., New York, N. Y., 1940. Price, $1.75.

The material presented in this book is based on the work carried out by the staff of the British Association of Research for the cocoa, chocolate, sugar confectionery and jam trades. Twenty-five laboratory-prepared pectins from oranges, lemons, apples, gooseberries and strawberries by different extraction methods were studied and their physical and chemical properties reported on. Factors affecting the jellying powers of pectins are discussed as follows: chemical composition, effect of heating, changes caused by the action of pectase, effect of alkalies and acids, effect of salts and effect of extractive process. There are 13 figures, 42 tables and 45 references to the literature.—A. G. D.