

bicarbonate. Heat was used in the procedure and ether was one of the excipients.

In 1930 Lang (14) made use of exsiccated sodium carbonate in a formula and used dextrin and kaolin, glycerin, and water as the excipients. He claimed that his mass did not oxidize or harden with age. In spite of such a claim as this Witts (15) says that the ideal preparation of iron still awaits discovery.

From a résumé of the subject one becomes convinced that many hours of labor have been expended by a long list of workers in an effort to perfect an ideal mass of ferrous carbonate. The problem is still an intriguing one.

It is of interest to note that the formulas for Blaud's Pills in the pharmacopœias of the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany have not been altered greatly since 1890. Not much has been written about the problem since 1900. However, it seems that there is a revival of interest in it at the present. The results of our recent work and observations will appear in another paper.

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"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles on it"—Margaret Fuller

Book Reviews

"*Cushny's Pharmacology and Therapeutics*," by EDMUNDS and GUNN. 852 pages. Lea & Febiger, 1940. Price, \$6.50.

When a book has passed through twelve editions and has enjoyed the wide acceptance of this text in both medical and pharmacy schools for forty-one years, little can be said in comment on it. The changes in the present edition over the previous one are mainly in bringing the subject matter up-to-date, and in the inclusion of newer remedies. Among these is sulfanilamide and related compounds where an excellent job of correlation has been done in a difficult field. The temptation to introduce into this section material with unproved but fascinating implications must have been great. This has been avoided and consequently the student is properly prepared for future more controversial aspects of this field. The outstanding characteristic of this edition, as well as those which have immediately preceded it, seems to be a careful and intentional attempt to make this text useful to the student. There is probably no subject in the medical-pharmaceutical curriculum which lends itself to organization with such difficulty. Drugs often have many points of action and are used for so many different therapeutic purposes that the author of a textbook is confronted with the difficult task of classification and presentation in a logical form. The original author and his revisers have given evidence of awareness of this problem and have consciously set out to solve it in so far as our present knowledge of pharmacology will permit. To this end they have devised a system which is designed for "convenience in teaching the subject and ease of learning it." They have admirably succeeded. Some may object to occasional omissions of obscure, but pharmacologically interesting substances. Others might object to the use of so few references. But if one remembers the purpose for which the book was designed, it can be seen that these are advantages. For students, particularly those in pharmacy, proper orientation and sound fundamental organization are more important objectives than heterogeneous miscellanea, no matter how extensive. These objectives are admirably fulfilled by this text.—J. M. DILLE

Vitamin E—A Symposium, under the auspices of the Food Group (Nutritional Panel) of the Society of Chemical Industry on April 22, 1939, at the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, W.C.I., England. Monograph of 88 pages, bound. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York. Price \$2.00.

The monograph, which is edited by A. L. Bacharach of the Glaxco Laboratories, Middlesex, and Professor J. C. Drummond of the Biochemistry De-