

partment, University College, Gower Street, London, is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the chemical structure and properties of tocopherol (vitamin E) under six divisions, or heads; the chemistry of vitamin E by Professor A. E. Todd of the University of Manchester; synthetic analogs and homologs of vitamin E; and the stability of tocopherol and tocopherol esters by research workers on the subject. Part II is devoted to a consideration of the physiological action of vitamin E and the consequences of vitamin E deficiency. Part III comprises reports of work done on the treatment of habitual abortion in the Maternity Hospital, Leeds, and Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield, and the University of Sheffield.—E. G. E.

An Introduction to Materia Medica and Pharmacology, by HUGH ALISTER MCGUIGAN and ROBERT ALISTER MCGUIGAN with ELSIE E. KRUG. 871 pages. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1940. Price, \$3.50.

The second edition of this interesting text is in reality a handbook of materia medica and pharmacology designed primarily for instruction of nurses. Unlike the senior author's "Applied Pharmacology," this book is conveniently separated into chapters and offers as satisfactory and rational a classification of materia medica and pharmacological subjects as is possible at the present time. Much space, of course, is devoted to the purely pharmaceutical information which nurses are required to know, and official and semi-official drugs in elementary chemistry are listed very concisely. Beautifully colored plates of important drug plants, as well as of certain pharmaceutical preparations, constitute one of the best features of the book. The very satisfactory handling of the pharmacological section of the volume enables it to meet the requirements of the nursing profession and makes it profitable reading even for the medical student. An interesting feature of the text are the questions with which the various chapters conclude. The book will be welcomed by those reviewing the subject with an eye to the state examinations. The excellent format of this work also serves to make it one of the best of that type which has come to the attention of the reviewer.—D. I. M.

The Physiology and Pharmacology of the Pituitary Body. Volume II, by H. B. VAN DYKE, M.D. xiv + 402 pages. University of Chicago Press. Price, \$4.50.

This monograph of some 400 pages is not, as might be supposed from its title, a second volume of a work on the pituitary gland but really a supplement to Volume I, which contains a critical digest by the same author of experimental and clinical

literature appearing since 1935 on the master gland of the human body. In other words, it covers the scientific output on the subject during the period extending from 1935 to the early part of 1938. As books go it is therefore already out of date in this year of 1940. The prodigious amount of work being done on the pituitary can be gathered from the fact that approximately 750 articles dealing with that gland are published yearly and that the bibliography of the volume before us contains 1418 titles. A perusal of the pages reveals the complexity of the subject and the remarkably ingenious methods which have been employed in investigation of the pituitary gland. The volume begins with a chapter of thirty-two pages on its anatomy, followed by lengthy sections devoted to the various functions of the anterior pituitary lobe, and it is only in the ninth chapter that the writer discusses the important new discoveries made regarding the chemistry and pharmacology of the posterior lobe of *Pars neuralis*. A full chapter is delegated to the subject of regulation of growth by the pituitary. Two other chapters deal with the gonadotropic hormones of the pituitary and the relation of these hormones to pregnancy, and to certain neoplasms. A separate section is devoted to the *Pars glandularis* in relation to the development of the mammary glands and lactation. Another section of 24 pages discusses the thyrotropic function of the pituitary. A very important chapter describes the interrelationship between *Pars glandularis* and the adrenal glands, and its influence on metabolism of carbohydrates, lipoids, proteins, minerals and function of parathyroid glands. A separate chapter is given to the regulatory function of the pituitary in connection with chromatophores. The portion dealing with the posterior lobe presents the latest knowledge concerning chemistry and pharmacology of that still not completely understood part of the pituitary gland. An excellent discussion at the end deals with *Pars neuralis* as a gland of internal secretion. This monograph is richly illustrated with diagrams, some of them in colors. An appendix presents the structural formulas of the principal hormones of natural origin. The whole work is a scholarly digest of an intricate subject by one who has gleaned his information in a considerable degree from original research and is thoroughly conversant with literature on the subject. The statement on the title-page that Dr. Van Dyke was formerly professor of pharmacology at the University of Chicago and the Peiping Medical College and is now director of pharmacology at the Squibb Institute should not be overlooked. There is a moral in this bit of information. It points to the significant fact that the number of distinguished pharmacologists associated with privately endowed industrial laboratories is increasing while the roster of those connected with pharmacological departments of the universities dwindles in proportion.—D. I. M.