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classifying the ring systems. Each compound is illustrated with a structural formula, its name and at least one reference to the chemical literature. The systems are classified according to the number of rings. A subclassification shows if the ring is carbocyclic or heterocyclic, fused, bridged or spiro. The volume represents work done over approximately twenty years and it is believed that it will be found to be a valuable addition to every chemical library.—A. G. D.

*The Life of Ira Remsen*, by FREDERICK H. GETMAN. 172 pages. 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. 1940. Easton, Pa.: Journal of Chemical Education. \$2.50.

This little volume is an interesting sketch of the life of Ira Remsen who lived during the period in which chemistry as a science was building up in this country. Ira Remsen, chemist, professor and college president, was schooled in Germany under Liebig, Volhard, Fittig and Wöhler. He was one of the first in this country to appreciate the value of laboratory instruction in chemistry and during his long sojourn at Johns Hopkins as professor and president, he saw that institution rise to a position of one of the foremost among education institutions in the country. The book is full of inspiration and is worth reading.—A. G. D.

*Photodynamic Action and Diseases Caused by Light*, by HAROLD FRANCIS BLUM. A. C. S. Monograph 85. 309 pages. 1941. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corp. \$6.00.

This volume is a critical study of the rather extensive literature on photodynamic action and its relation to certain diseases of man and animals. It begins with a brief, but clear introduction on the nature of radiation and its biological effects. The succeeding section discusses photodynamic action in which consideration is given to the factors determining photodynamic effectiveness and their bearing on the theory proposed. Part III, which deals with the diseases produced by light in animals, gives an interesting account of hypericium, geeldikkop and fagopyrism. Part IV discusses in detail the diseases produced by light in man, both those caused by abnormal sensitivity to ultraviolet radiation and those caused by sensitization to visible light. The relation of light to skin cancer is also discussed. The book represents a very complete survey of the progress which has been made in the study of photodynamic action and should be of interest to the specialist in this field primarily, also to physicians and pharmacists.—A. G. D.

## Book Reviews

*The Ring Index*, by AUSTIN M. PATTERSON and LEONARD T. CAPELL. 661 pages. 6 x 9. 1940. New York: Reinhold Publ. Corp. \$8.00.

This is a catalog of 3978 ring compounds compiled by the author for the purpose of systematizing and