

be useful in horticultural practice in helping do away with the confusion resulting from giving the same name to plants which differ widely in their main characteristics although they have appeared from identical crosses.

Of special interest to pharmacists and physicians is the list of Drug Plant Names which was compiled by the Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION composed of Professors Youngken, Ballard and Gathercoal. This list covers 28 pages of the text and includes practically all of the names of drug plants, vegetable drugs as well as the names of spice and dye plants, and their products used for medicinal and pharmaceutical purposes in the United States. The list is divided into two parts. Each page of the first part gives the Latin drug name of each entry immediately followed by its synonym in parentheses, the botanical name and the Standardized Plant Names common name. In the second part, the names of the plants are given in the first column, the S. P. N. common name in the second column and the drug name, with its chief synonym in parentheses, in the third column.

The compilers of this list of names have apparently spent a considerable time checking the scientific names for their validity according to the latest rulings of the International Botanical Congresses, which was a very necessary phase of this work. They are also to be commended upon the apparent thoroughness of their research on matters of nomenclature and taxonomy which entered into their decisions upon some of the names. For instance, the drug Coptis or Goldthread has long been stated to be yielded by *Coptis trifolia*, but in this list it is correctly stated to be yielded by *Coptis groenlandica*. *Coptis trifolia* is an Alaskan species and not the source of the drug as has been written in the pharmaceutical literature. Many other similar mistakes found in the drug literature have been corrected in this list.

The book as a whole is a great improvement over the first edition. The type is clear and printed on good paper, and the book is well bound. It should be found almost indispensable as a reference to the practicing pharmacist and teacher as well as to all having occasion to buy or sell plants or their products.—MAYNARD W. QUIMBY.

*Introductory Organic Chemistry, with Certain Chapters of Biochemistry*, by E. WERTHEIM, Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Arkansas. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1942. 482 pp., 15 x 23 cm. Price, \$3.00.

The purpose of this book is to provide a sensible background in organic chemistry for students of medicine, dentistry or pharmacy, and the book is, in this capacity, an excellent companion to the short course offered in many schools. The material presented is admittedly too abundant for a single-semester course, since it is intended to have the text adaptable to various modes of teaching and as a reference work.

The first twenty-one chapters are the usual progressive treatment of compound types, including short presentations of terpenes, dyes, proteins, glycosides, enzymes, hormones, with a more complete subchapter on vitamins. The chemistry of the organic compounds is quite logically the simplest, avoiding special and commercial applications and tending, instead, to a large number of medical references, which could profitably be even more numerous. The groundwork is excellent. Much emphasis is placed on the naming of compounds by the Geneva and popular systems, thus supplying a valuable tool for reference work. All functional groups and many special compounds are illustrated by photographs of space models, a number of which are actually scale models of the accepted structures. The development of formulas by analytical data is treated in the beginning chapters to provide something more than faith for the student's acceptance. Fifteen charts of relationships between compounds are quite useful in correlating and supplementing data given in the text. Numerous pertinent and thought-provoking questions append to each chapter, offering considerable aid to the teacher and the industrious student.

The last four chapters treat of digestion and absorption of foods, metabolism, quantitative considerations in nutrition, and foods and dietary necessities. These constitute an excellent bridge into the medical sciences.

The appendix consists of an atomic weights table, a glossary of organic and medical terms, a glossary of inorganic chemistry, reference books, analytical data on foods, and a very thorough discussion of stain removal.—EDGAR B. STARKEY.