

BOOK NOTICES

Year-Book of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Volume III of the Year-Book of the American Pharmaceutical Association has doubtless by this time reached all the members entitled to receive this volume. It is a book of nearly 900 pages and prepared by the Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy Julius Arnold Koch, with the collaboration of Harry V. Arny, Frederick J. Blumen-schein, Linwood A. Brown, Karl S. Burkett, C. Lewis Diehl, Louis Saalbach, Clyde M. Snow, Julius W. Sturmer, Martin I. Wilbert, John H. Wurdach and Otto Raubenheimer.

Fifty-six pages are given over to the roster of the Association, the constitution and by-laws, and a report on various funds of the Association. An alphabetical and geographical list of members is appended, and an excellent index of subjects with cross references, together with an author's index making reference to articles contained in the book very convenient.

The Reporter submits that he hardly expects that this Year-Book will compare favorably with the excellent reports on the progress of pharmacy in previous years under direction of Professor C. Lewis Diehl, and that he will be satisfied with the report if fairly representative of the progress of pharmacy. In this he certainly has succeeded, for the present edition is a worthy successor of those that have preceded it. The Reporter invites constructive criticism which will be helpful in the preparation of the next Year-Book.

In compiling the report the general plan followed in previous years has been retained and only a few minor changes in the classification of the subject matter made. Among these, the arrangement of Organic Materia-Medica in alphabetical order, instead of under the natural orders. This arrangement seems to us more convenient for reference than the former plan.

The general divisions of the Year-Book are classified into subjects under Pharmacy, Materia-Medica, Inorganic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. Pharmacy is subdivided into general subjects which deal with pharmacopœias, legislation, laws pertaining to the drug business, associations and colleges. Another section takes up apparatus and manipulations, while the third division relates

to preparations, and the last to new remedies and trade-named preparations.

The abstracts of Materia-Medica are divided into general subjects, vegetable drugs, and animal drugs and products; Inorganic Chemistry subjects are considered under non-metallic elements and metals. Organic Chemistry is treated under the following heads: Volatile Oils and Derivatives; Alcohols and Derivatives; Aromatic Derivatives; Fixed Oils and Fats; Carbohydrates; Organic Acids; Organic Bases; Glucosides and Neutral Principles; Coloring Matters; Proteins; Ferments and Enzymes; Sera and Vaccines; Urine, Blood and Biliary Compounds.

The abstracts show careful study and give in a very concise way the important essential information required on the subject, and expected in a book of this kind. Each subject quotes the publication from which the articles abstracted are taken so that, when necessary, the original contribution may be consulted. The typography is good and follows the usual style adopted in the publication of the Year-Book.

By the completion of this work the members of the Association again have a most excellent reference book that will doubtless be frequently consulted by them with much satisfaction. The Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, after his election, at once prepared copy for the book, and whatever delay may have occurred was not through any fault of his. A point that is sometimes overlooked by the members is, that a Year-Book cannot be issued until some time after the close of the year for which these abstracts are made, hence under the most favorable conditions can hardly be issued until about April of the succeeding year.

For the information of those who desire to purchase a copy of the Year-Book, this issue, as well as preceding volumes, may be obtained by addressing Secretary William B. Day, 701 South Wood Street, Chicago, Ill. The price is \$4 per volume.

Transactions of the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics A. M. A.

Transactions of the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the American Medical Association at the Sixty-seventh Annual Session, held at Detroit, Michigan, June 13 to 16, 1916. American Medical Association Press, Chicago, 1916. This book of

172 octavo pages is just being distributed. In addition to a list of the officers of the Section and a brief presentation of the minutes of the Sessions of the Section at the meeting in Detroit, June 13 to 15, it includes reprints of the several papers that were read at the several Sessions of the Section. The first four papers in this book are of special interest to pharmacists, as they deal primarily with the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and with the propaganda of the Council for Useful Drugs. These several papers are as follows:

The Duty of the Medical Profession Toward the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. Robert A. Hatcher.

The Therapeutic Research Committee of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. Torald Sollmann.

The Work of the American Medical Association Chemical Laboratory. W. A. Puckner.

Useful Drugs. Martin I. Wilbert.

The discussion of these several papers, which is also produced in the book before us, shows that the medical profession generally is awakening to the need of a systematic propaganda in the rational use of drugs.

As an illustration of the recent development in prescription writing it may be well to quote from the remarks by Dr. O. T. Osborne of the Medical Department of the Yale University, who in discussing secrecy in prescription writing, said: "Latin is not now required for entrance in most medical schools, and the mistakes in Latin on prescriptions are frequent and ridiculous. Also, if we decry the secrecy of proprietary mixtures, it is hardly advisable to be mysterious in prescription writing. For instance, let "Aqua Gaultheriæ" be written "wintergreen water." The State Examining Board of Connecticut will now accept English prescriptions.

Dr. N. P. Barnes, of Washington, D. C., in further commenting on this subject, said in part: "We spend too much time on prescription writing. We hammer at this year after year—the combining of four drugs in a prescription written in Latin. . . . When you see a family well informed on hygiene and sanitation you can depend on it that the family physician is a good doctor."

The remaining papers in the book deal

primarily with the use of drugs and the general limitations of therapeutic measures.

M. I. W.

Reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and the Chemical Laboratory, A. M. A.

The reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association that have appeared from time to time in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION are now reprinted in book form. The object is to make these reports available to scientists in general, especially to chemists and pharmacologists.

The annual reports of the Chemical Laboratory have also been published. The laboratory was established primarily to aid the Association's Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, and since its establishment the sphere of the Laboratory's activities has constantly widened. This little volume contains reprints of contributions to the Journal involving assay methods, abstracts of reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and also reports not heretofore published.

In previous years the greater portion of the Council's investigations have not been published in the JOURNAL for the assigned reasons that manufacturers should first be given an opportunity to conform to the Council's requirements, and that comparatively few physicians were interested in the composition of these products. It is now stated that physicians are seeking information regarding the preparations, and relative to the first reason for delay given, sufficient time has elapsed for manufacturers to comply, if such was their intention.

Regardless of what may be the individual views anent the value of the preparations reported on, there is certainly much useful information for the pharmacist in the books. He should be informed of the composition of proprietaries dispensed and for sale by him, and he should also know what the views of the American Medical Association are concerning these preparations.

The reports are thorough in the details of investigation and much of this information may be utilized in other determinations, or in dispensing by avoiding the errors pointed out, or otherwise profiting by the suggestions conveyed through these assay processes, or the reports on therapeutic action.