

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.