

up with a consideration of the subject of the chemistry of the carbon compounds, commonly called organic chemistry. This important subject is handled in a thoroughly satisfactory manner and rounds out the completeness of the book admirably. One of the commendable features of the brief appendix to the book is the article on Optical Phenomena and descriptions of the spectroscope and polariscope.

The book is one which will undoubtedly meet with the success which has attended past editions and deserves to be in the library of every student of chemistry and teacher in colleges of pharmacy, medicine and dentistry.

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*Lessons in Pharmaceutical Latin and Prescription Writing and Interpretation.* By Hugh C. Muldoon, Instructor in Organic and Analytical Chemistry and Latin, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, Mass. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York. Octavo; 173 pages; price, \$1.25.

The Pharmaceutical Syllabus allots only twenty-five hours to the study of "Latin pertaining to the science and art of pharmacy" and frankly states that: "In a Latin course of but twenty-five hours, it is evident that all ordinary methods of treating the subject must be set aside." It follows, therefore, that text-books on the subject of Pharmaceutical Latin must to a large extent set aside ordinary methods of teaching languages and merely endeavor to impress upon the student such essentials as will enable him to interpret and understand the construction of official Latin titles, prescriptions, and common terms used in connection with the practice of pharmacy.

The little volume under discussion seems to meet these requirements. The author says in his preface that neither drug store experience nor previous knowledge of Latin on the part of the student is assumed. Exceptions to general rules are omitted. But four cases of the noun and adjective are noted with stress upon the genitive. The third declension is simplified as much as possible and the discussion of the verb is reduced to a minimum. The greater portion of the exercise work is devoted to translation from Latin to English. Prescription writing and interpretation is well covered

and there are some paragraphs devoted to a discussion of the Harrison law as it pertains to prescription writing, and other technicalities involved in filling, labeling and dispensing prescriptions.

One criticism that could be made of the book is the author's attitude toward the question of pronunciation. He says: "It is much more practical for a pharmacist to be able to interpret a prescription correctly, than it is for him to be able to pronounce in faultless manner the Latin contained therein." However true this statement may be, it is absolutely essential that the student have some guide in pronunciation while he is studying Latin words and case endings. Certainly a teacher must use either the English or Roman pronunciation in teaching the subject and it cannot be expected that the student remember the pronunciation of every word as spoken by the teacher. If he is to use the text-book at all in studying, it is only fair that diacritical marks be employed at least in the early exercises to guide him in pronouncing as he studies. It does not matter so much whether Roman or English pronunciation is followed, although the latter is by far preferable and is advocated by the Syllabus, but it is a mistake not to declare in favor of either one and then stick to it. The American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties should declare in favor of one or the other method of pronunciation and settle this question for all time.

R. P. FISCHELIS.

*A Treatise on Pharmacy.* For Students and Pharmacists. By Charles Caspari, Jr., Ph.G., Professor of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland (Maryland College of Pharmacy, 1884-1904). Fifth edition, enlarged and revised. Octavo, 929 pages, illustrated with 337 engravings. Cloth, \$4.75 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1916.

A review of this well-known work on pharmacy will appear in the December number of the JOURNAL.

*Histology of Medicinal Plants.* By William Mansfield, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Histology and Pharmacognosy of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, Columbia University. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 432 Fourth Ave., New York City, publishers.