

This monograph is certainly a unique volume in American pharmaceutical and medical literature. Every one who knows its author and the vast store of historical information at his command, will understand how much special study and painstaking care have been put into the volume. That so unique a book should have demanded a fourth edition should prove to the skeptic that information, commonly designated as being of a general cultural value, can be and is being appreciated by technical and professional students.

To those to whom the earlier editions are not already familiar, the title will impart sufficient information as to the contents. The reviewer, therefore, avails himself of the opportunity to point out that it would be well for other authors to give to their technical treatises a broader aspect. This can, no doubt, best be done by making most of the historical development of the subject treated. In attempting such a treatment it will not suffice to prepare a brief historical statement somewhere in the book. The spirit of historical development, in other words, of the evolution of the subject, should possibly dominate. The scientist, above all others, should know that a mere dogmatic statement of the facts, commonly recognized at the time, does not afford the correct viewpoint. Indeed, the scientist should avoid as much as possible such a presentation. Unfortunately, however, he is among the most guilty in this respect.

That the technical information imparted by Wall's "The Prescription" is proving valuable to students and practitioners is clearly shown by the new editions demanded. Who will deny that, as a stimulus to the study of the historical development of our calling and all that pertains thereto, it is not rendering an even greater service? E. K.

Plant Materials of Decorative Gardening; The Woody Plants. By William Trelease. One vol., pp. 204. Published by the author, Urbana, 1917. (Price, \$1.00.)

As Director of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Experiment Station, the writer has had innumerable inquiries about medicinal plants, wild as well as cultivated. The first report of the station contains a list of native Wisconsin plants, that have been used medicinally, with page references to the three standard dispensaries. A copy of this report was sent to every drug store of the state.

Whenever practicable, the writer has referred persons seeking information about native medicinal plants to their local druggist. It is to be hoped that the druggists thus approached will be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to impart to old or prospective customers professional information along these lines.

Occasionally one finds a druggist who enjoys the cultivation of medicinal plants in his flower garden. Others seem to prefer to leave everything that reminds them of drugs in their store and to cultivate plants that do not suggest what they regard as their drudgery. Occasionally a druggist's wife takes an interest in plants whether pharmaceutical or not. Whether the druggist himself or his wife be interested in a garden, the pocket volume just published by Professor Trelease will be very welcome to many a lover of our friends of the vegetable kingdom. For many years Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the author has had an unusual opportunity to acquaint himself not only with cultivated plants, but also with the general public that loves plants, and hence to appreciate their needs. This pocket guide that is to introduce us to our summer friends of our lawns, gardens and parks, will unquestionably stimulate us to a better acquaintance and thus prove exceedingly helpful. That Professor Trelease has rendered a real service to many of us there can be no doubt.

E. K.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Proceedings of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, 1917 (formerly National Association of Medicinal Products). The volume contains the stenographic report of the convention at the Waldorf-Astoria, February 6-7, 1917, with the exception of the address on "Vocational Selection," by Professor Walter Dill Scott, later published in book form by the author, and the report of the meeting of the Biological Section, where all the business transacted was executive and of which no record was made. The book is bound in buckram and has 275 pages.

Proceedings of the Thirty-Ninth Annual meeting of the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association held at Excelsior Springs, June 12-15, 1917.

Proceedings of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association held at Ashville, June 19-21, 1917.