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BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A Systematic Course of Qualitative Chemical Analysis of Inorganic and Organic Substances, with explanatory notes, by Henry W. Schimpf, Ph. G. M. D., Professor of Analytical Chemistry in the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. Third Edition, revised. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1917. 187 pages, Price $1.50.

The new edition of this book, which has proved its worth by two previous editions, both of which were successful, is about the same as the previous editions in scope and arrangement. It has been amplified and extended, however, in a number of directions, having a number of new separation schemes or charts.

The arrangement of the work is along the following lines: A preliminary chapter is devoted to general principles and definitions. Then follows the qualitative separation of the metals, which are divided into five groups. A particularly valuable feature of this part of the book is the supplementing of the synopsis by a chart and the subsequent detailed discussion of the reason for each step taken, illustrated in many cases with complete equations showing the reactions.

Another interesting and valuable feature is the chart for the comparative observation of the reactions of all bases with NaOH, NH_4OH and Na_2CO_3, respectively.

Following the separation of the bases comes the plan for identification and separation of the acids, which is very comprehensive, and possesses many of the good points mentioned in connection with the preceding portion of the work.

Part III is devoted to the qualitative analysis of organic substances. There is not much opportunity for systematic work in this connection, as no scheme is possible which proceeds upon the plan of systematic elimination, except in separate groups. However, the subject has been very cleverly handled and an interesting and instructive plan has been followed, which has much to commend it from the practical standpoint.

One of the novel and commendable features is a scheme for the systematic identification of the scaled iron compounds. There is also given a scheme for the detection of poisons and one for urinalysis, the latter being very complete and accompanied by practical advice in the matter of reporting.

The book concludes with a list of formulas for the various reagents referred to in the analytical schemes. Taken as a whole the book is commendable, either looked upon as a text book or a laboratory reference book.

C. H. L.

Medical Bacteriology.—By John A. Roddy, M.D., Associate in Hygiene and Bacteriology Jefferson Medical College; Chief Assistant, Department of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Hospital; Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; Sometime Serologist to the Philadelphia General Hospital; First Lieutenant, Medical Section O. R. C., U. S. A. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Company, 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Price $2.50.

Kircher, a member of the Society of Jesus, in 1846 reported the presence of "minute living worms" in putrid meat. He attributed the putrefaction to their activity and suggested that disease might be due to similar organisms. Taking this as the starting point, the author in his first chapter tells us in terse and well chosen language how the science of bacteriology has gradually developed.

The second chapter deals with the classification of bacteria, and in five pages a clear description of the morphology of microbic life

is given. The third chapter, dealing with the microscopy of the subject, is equally concise and practical, and in six pages the student finds all that it is really necessary to know concerning the microscope and its uses in bacteriological technique.

The subject of staining is treated in a very practical manner in the next chapter. Then follows a chapter on sterilization, of unusual value to both pharmacists and physicians. The up-to-date character of the work is well illustrated by a description of a method for preparing Dakin's solution, which includes an original letter by Dr. Carrel, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, December 9, 1916, also by references to several of the more recent antiseptics and disinfectants, such, for example, as Flavine, knowledge concerning which product was taken from the British Medical Journal for January 20, 1917. The various improved forms of sterilizers are described, also methods of disinfection.

Chapter VI deals with culture media, a subject with which every pharmacist should be acquainted in a practical manner because the demand for culture media is an extensive one and should be supplied by the laboratories of professional pharmacists.

Then follows a series of thirty-seven short chapters dealing with the most important bacteria from a medical and surgical standpoint, including the staphylococci, streptococci, pneumococcus, meningococcus, micrococcus catarrhalis, diphtheria bacillus, tubercle bacillus, typhoid bacillus, bacillus tetani, etc. Each microörganism is briefly described and the method of cultivating it given. Sufficient information relating to the pathogeneses of each is furnished, to clearly indicate its disease-producing power. The method of bacteriological diagnosis is practically described and the question of serum and vaccine therapy briefly referred to. These chapters relating to the disease-producing bacteria are illustrated. Eight of the illustrations are printed in colors.

The remaining six chapters constituting Part I relate, respectively, to the higher bacteria hyphomycetes, saccharomycetes, monila, sporotrichum Schenkii, and to infectious diseases of unknown causation.

The first three chapters of Part II are devoted to bacteriological examination of fluids and solids, such, for example, as water, milk, catsup, eggs, etc.; then follows a chapter on "Determination of the Germicidal Power of Chemical Disinfectants."

The next chapter deals with bacteriological diagnosis, a subject which should be thoroughly mastered by the pharmacist to make himself of practical value to the physician.

A chapter on bacterial vaccines, both non-sensitized and sensitized, follows including tuberculins and their method of production. This chapter also includes the subject of rabies and the preparation of rabies vaccine, Coley's fluid, Haffkine's vaccine and anthrax vaccine.

Chapter VII deals briefly with the antitoxins and antimicrobic serums, including diphtheria antitoxin, tetanus antitoxin, antistreptococcic serum, antimeningococcic serum and antianthrax serum.

Chapter VIII deals with the Wassermann and other complement-fixation tests and is beautifully illustrated. The technique for making these tests is so lucidly explained that any pharmacist who has followed the work practically up to this point should have no difficulty in carrying out the methods described.

The last chapter is devoted to the subject of immunity. This chapter is characterized by the same conciseness and clearness of description pertaining to the whole book. What is meant by virulence of bacteria is clearly set forth, and reference made to fluctuation in virulence. The question of natural and acquired immunity is considered, and the meaning of infections defined. Reference is made to the natural immunizing forces which afford resistance of man to infection; and the causes of lessened resistance are briefly related. Then follows information concerning the mechanism of immunity including Metchnikoff's discoveries regarding the destruction of bacteria by the body cells by means of a ferment-like substance known as *cytase*. Wright's opsonin which facilitates ingestion and digestion of bacteria by phagocytic cells, and Pfeiffer's phenomenon are described, and the various protective substances found in the blood serum briefly referred to. Ehrlich's side-chain theory is clearly described and diagrammatically illustrated within the brief compass of two pages. Anaphylaxis is discussed, and this excellent little text book ends with a short reference to the subject of animal inoculation.

Dr. Roddy's book is all that he claims it to be, namely, a text book for beginners and a laboratory guide for medical practitioners and pharmacists, presented in the clearest possible form.

The author acknowledges the aid given him

by Professor R. C. Rosenberger and the able assistance of Dr. Louis Gershenfeld, also the "invaluable assistance" rendered by Dr. Robert M. Lukens, who made the illustrations, Mr. David R. Brewer, Dr. M. E. Smoczynski and Mrs. Mary L. Vogel. F. E. S.

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All changes of address of members should be sent to the General Secretary promptly.

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