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BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Organic Materia Medica and Pharmacognosy.
—By Lucius E. Sayre, B.S., Ph.M., Dean of
the School of Pharmacy; Professor of Materia
Medica in the University of Kansas; Member
of the Committee of Revision of the United
States Pharmacopoeia; Director of Drug Lab-
oratory for the State of Kansas. An intro-
duction to the study of the vegetable kingdom
and the vegetable and animal drugs com-
prising the botanical and physical character-
istics, source, constituents, pharmacopoeial
preparations, insects injurious to drugs, and
pharmaceutical botany. Fourth edition, revised;
302 illustrations; 606 pages. Price \$4.50 net.
P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia.

The table of contents indicates that the work
is divided into four parts, Part I including
different forms of classification of drugs, such
as therapeutically, structurally and accord-
ing to prominent physical properties, espe-
cially the odor and taste. This part in-
cludes a list of inorganic drugs and of the
newer remedies. Part II includes a descrip-
tion of organic drugs of the vegetable and
animal kingdoms arranged according to nat-
ural orders and has a chapter on drug assay
processes. Part III is devoted to insects
injurious to drugs. Part IV discusses pow-
dered drugs, reagents and chemical methods of
demonstrating the nature of cell walls and cell
contents.

This revision contains many improvements
over the previous editions of Professor Sayre's
work. Especially should be noted the omis-
sion of the rather long and highly technical
histological descriptions in connection with
the botanical drugs. This omission makes

the general description of the drug much more
readable to the average student of materia
medica. The mention made of the action and
uses of the drug is well presented, being
neither too extensive nor a mere listing of
the therapeutic groups to which the drug
belongs.

The matter relating to the commercial source
of the drug is much to be preferred to the old
style mention of the habitat of the plant.

Unfortunately, Professor Sayre has not
given the same standing to all of the N. F.
drugs. Some of them receive the same style
of heading and about as much description as
the U. S. P. drugs, while others are classed
with the unofficals and the fact that they are
N. F. is hardly indicated. Surely since the
National Formulary is now recognized as a
standard in materia medica, the N. F. drugs
should each receive the same rank, even though
this rank is somewhat lower than the U. S. P.
drugs, and they should not be classed with the
unofficals.

A few errors, typographical and otherwise,
have been noted, though some errors cannot be
avoided in a work of so large a scope, even
with the utmost care. There was particularly
noted on page 340 the omission of the last
syllable of "Methylis" in the term "Methylis
Salicylas;" on page 343, the "r" should be
eliminated from "Ebenarceae;" on page 413,
the term "Colocynthis Pulpa" should be
"Colocynthis."

On the whole, the text seems to be quite
free from errors and this revision no doubt will
maintain the high standard as a materia
medica text-book held by its predecessors.

E. N. GATHERCOAL.