

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

U. S. Dispensatory, 20th Edition.—Besides the latest editions of the United States Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary, every well-regulated pharmacy should possess a library, even if only one shelf full, of reference books. Among those the most important is a dispensatory. All countries have commentaries on their pharmacopoeias, as, for instance, Hager in Germany, Vogl-Ludwig in Austria, Dorvault in France, the Pharmaceutical Codex in Great Britain, Orosi in Italy, etc. Pharmacy in the United States can justly be proud in having not only one but three dispensatories.

The oldest one of these is the "U. S. Dispensatory," the 20th edition of which has just been published. Let me quote the following from the preface of the first edition of this work, dated Philadelphia, January 1833. "We have a National Pharmacopoeia, which requires an explanatory commentary, in order that its precepts may be fully appreciated, and advantageously put into practice. On these accounts, it is desirable that there should be a "Dispensatory of the United States," which, while it embraces whatever is useful in European pharmacy, may accurately represent the art as it exists in this country and give instruction adapted to our peculiar wants." Eighty-five years have passed since these words were written by Dr. George B. Wood and Dr. Franklin Bache and they still hold good this very day. From the small "Wood and Bache Dispensatory," of 1073 pages, the book has now become a master work, an authoritative encyclopedia on pharmacy, chemistry, botany, materia medica and therapeutics. The Historical Title Page, page ii, gives an excellent account of the evolution of the U. S. Dispensatory during its life of 20 editions.

The 20th edition just published and before us is a stately volume of 2150 pages, bound in buckram, which wears much better than leather. The editorial staff consists of experts of national and even international reputation, namely, Professors Joseph P. Remington, Samuel P. Sadtler, Horatio C. Wood, Jr., Henry Kraemer, Charles H. LaWall and John F. Anderson. These men are so well known to both the professions of pharmacy and medicine that no further introduction is necessary. It is to be regretted that the editor-in-chief, Joseph P. Remington, died while this edition was in the press

and could not see the present stately master volume.

That the 20th edition of the Dispensatory was not rushed or revised in haste can be seen from the following dates: The U. S. P. IX was published in August 1916, and the present edition of the Dispensatory in March 1918, and consequently 20 months of hard work were required to prepare the 20th edition of the "U. S. Dispensatory." The work has been brought up to date in conformity with the rapid advances in the pharmaceutical and medical sciences. No other book in the English language can be compared favorably with this edition of the U. S. Dispensatory in the extent of subjects and the method of treatment.

Among the valuable features of the present edition are the lists of synonyms, the insertion of alternative quantities in the formulae of the official preparations, the use of diacritical marks as a guide to pronunciation, and the list of official preparations at the end of the monographs of the official drugs. The use of these diacritical marks is a feature which should be especially appreciated by teachers and students and should also be of great help to make the pronunciation of Latin titles more uniform. The dose of each drug is given at the end of the description of its therapeutic uses, whereby the information which is usually wanted in a hurry is found in an instant. The quantities given are not intended as strict minimum and maximum doses, but merely to serve as a guide to the amounts generally used.

The 20th edition of the "U. S. Dispensatory" is a true commentary upon the latest revisions of the United States and British Pharmacopoeias. This, together with comments upon those preparations of the German Pharmacopoeia and the French Codex which are used generally in the United States, comprises Part I, which contains 1221 pages. How thorough the monographs in this part are written can be seen from the following two examples: Under *Acidum Salicylicum*, U. S., Br., the arrangement is as follows: U. S. P. and Br. P. definitions, Synonyms in English, German, French, Italian and Spanish, History, Preparation, Properties, Assays of U. S. P. and Br. P., Tests, Uses and Therapeutic Action, Dose and Official Preparations in U. S. P., Br. P., and N. F. The monograph of *Zingiber*, U. S., Br., is thus arranged: Defini-

tions, Synonyms, Commercial Varieties, Descriptive paragraphs on Jamaica, African, Calcutta, Calicut, Cochin and Japanese Ginger, Constituents, Uses, Dose and Official Preparations. The three full, double-column pages are proof of the thoroughness of this monograph. As a commentary on the Pharmacopoeias this part can not be excelled. One of the features are the many references to pharmaceutical, chemical and medical literature, because it enables the reader to consult the original article when he finds the abstract insufficient.

In Part II the National Formulary and other non-official drugs and chemicals are described on 451 double-column pages. The type in this part is smaller, by which arrangement the reader can at once differentiate between the pharmacopoeial and other drugs. While the limit of the present volume forbids an exhaustive description of all these substances, the subject is treated in an excellent way and the most essential information is given besides the key to the pharmaceutical, chemical and medical literature.

Part III is divided into two sections. The first contains Reagents, Test Solutions and Volumetric Solutions of the U. S. P. and Br. P., Biological Assays, Elements, Pharmacopoeial Chemicals and their Atomic or Molecular Weights, Thermometry, Weights and Measures, Alcohol and Other Tables. Section II contains an abstract of the preparations of N. F. IV, without, however, giving working formulas, according to the agreement with the A. Ph. A. In the opinion of the reviewer, this Section on the N. F. deserves to become Part IV of the "U. S. Dispensatory" and should also be improved by giving the history and uses of the most important galenicals.

The Preface of the work contains: Abbreviations, Table of Abbreviated Tables of Journals and Books, Glossary of Medical Terms, Index of Diseases, The Food and Drugs Act, Food Inspection Decisions, Harrison Narcotic Act and Regulations, and last, but not least, *Index to Food and Drugs Act and Harrison Narcotic Law*. The publication of these two laws and regulations in this book places same into the hands of pharmacists, wholesale and retail for easy reference. By referring to the special index of these decisions the reader can at once find an abstract, which is a great convenience, as these decisions are not always readily obtainable.

The Index of the "U. S. Dispensatory" oc-

cupies 170 pages in 3 columns in small type. The index is a key to a book and Prof. E. Fullerton Cook is to be complimented upon this well-fitting key.

The publishers, the J. B. Lippincott Company, are to be congratulated upon the typography and the make-up of the work. For a book of its size, it is remarkably light in weight and easy to handle, due to the use of light weight, but durable, paper. Much space has been saved by the use of smaller type in Part II, dealing with non-pharmacopoeia drugs. The binding in buckram is very durable and will no doubt last for ten years, when the next, the 21st edition, will be published.

The editors are to be complimented on so worthy a contribution to American pharmaceutical literature. Works of this kind will greatly help to improve American pharmacy and give our brethren across the great pond an idea of "what is doing" in the United States. The book is a wonderful repository of information concerning drugs and medicines, a real encyclopedia of pharmacy, a master work, which will be an everlasting monument to the editor-in-chief, the late Prof. Joseph P. Remington.

Let us hope that the 20th edition of the "U. S. Dispensatory" will be bought and used by pharmacists, druggists and physicians throughout the United States and English-speaking countries. Besides the many advantages already pointed out, this work will be a great help to the retail pharmacist who is daily confronted with numerous problems in the drug business and quite especially behind the prescription counter.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

A Guide to the Organic Drugs of the Ninth Revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia, the Third Revision of the National Formulary, a Few of the More Commonly Used Unofficial Drugs, and other Useful Information.—Compiled and arranged by John S. Wright. Revisions and Additions by Francis A. Federer and Harry W. Tuft. Third Revision, with Appendix. 70th Thousand. Prepared for Students of Pharmacy. Published from The Botanical Department by Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, U. S. A. Price, 25 cents. That the copies of this handy guide have been printed to the number indicated is sufficient evidence of its value. The latest edition—just off the press—contains in addition to the