

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

information on the organic drugs of ninth revision of the U. S. P., the same facts concerning the third revision of the National Formulary and the more commonly used unofficial drugs. Included in this vest pocket compendium are a conspectus of plant families, a glossary of botanical and therapeutical terms used and an index of botanical synonyms.

Still another feature of this handy reference booklet is a table of poisons and antidotes, rules for comparing Fahrenheit and Centigrade scales, phrases and abbreviations used in prescription writing, Latin genitive case endings, symbols and signs used in prescriptions, the Metric system of weights and measures and a table of equivalents.

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### FIND ADULTERATED DRUGS.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INVITES CRITICISM OF PROPOSED RULINGS.

The officials in charge of the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act have found certain impurities in pennyroyal leaves. In order that the trade may know what the United States Department of Agriculture regards as adulterants of this product it is proposed that a service and regulatory announcement be issued outlining the opinion of the department. Before issuing the announcement, the department desires to obtain the views of the trade or other interested parties as to the fairness of the ruling. Communications should be addressed promptly to the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. All criticisms will receive careful consideration. The proposed announcement follows:

"INFERIOR PENNYROYAL LEAVES.—Examination of samples of pennyroyal leaves, *Hedeoma pulegioides* (Linne) Persoon, has disclosed that in a large number of instances, the product has been very carelessly collected and frequently contained very large amounts of sand, stems and other foreign material. From the data at hand, the bureau is of the opinion that properly collected pennyroyal leaves should contain not more than 10 percent of stems, not more than 16 percent of total ash and not more than 6 percent of acid-insoluble ash (sand), and will consider as adulterated, under the Food and Drugs Act, any material which does not comply with these figures. Further investigation may reveal the necessity of establishing a more rigid requirement, in which case due notice will be given."

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### PULVIS UNNA.

Dr. H. V. Army states (*C. U. C. P. Alumni Journal*) that by this title, the prescriber undoubtedly means *pulvis fluens hydrargyri*, a powdered form of mercury, made by rubbing mercury with talcum powder and a little oil of turpentine. In another recipe a 30 per cent powder is directed to be made by triturating thirty grams of mercury with five grams of oil of turpentine and fifteen grams of lycopodium until it is extinguished, after which it is diluted with fifty-five grams of powdered wheat starch. For further details, see Year Book of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1915, page 210; 1916, page 281.