

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Pharmacopoea Nederlandica. Editio Quarta. Supplenda et mutanda. Typis J. H. de Bussy—Amstelodami, MCMX.* The fourth edition of the Pharmacopoea Nederlandica was published in 1905 and became official on July 1, 1906. In 1910 this supplement was published. It was compiled by a committee of ten, consisting of six university professors, three pharmacists and one medical officer of the army. The supplement is divided into two parts, part I containing additional articles to the Pharmacopoeia and part II changes in the texts of the official descriptions. The rapid progress in the manufacture of synthetic drugs as well as the omission of some much-used drugs necessitated the adoption of nine chemicals such as aspirin, veronal, pyramidon, adrenalin, etc., of one emulsion (cod liver oil), one fluidextract (kola), two drugs (lavender flowers and kola nut), one solution (adrenalin solution 1:2000), one reagent (Million's) and one volumetric solution ( $n/10$  potassium iodide solution).

Part II of the Supplement contains about eighty changes in the descriptions of the official drugs and preparations, their requirements and standards.

The Supplement, like the Pharmacopoeia, is written in Latin.

A second supplement, written in Dutch, and published by Gebr. Belinfante in 's Gravenhage in 1914, was compiled by a committee of thirteen, six of whom were university professors while the remaining seven were either pharmacists or were engaged in their capacity as pharmacists in Government work. This Supplement gives eight additional chemicals (such as organic silver preparations, collargol and protargol, calcium and sodium glycerophosphates, novocain, tropacocaine, etc.), one organo-therapeutic drug (thyroid gland), one drug (adonis), one oil (chaulmoogra oil) and one paste (zinc paste). A list of reagents comprising methyl red, ammonium molybdate is also added.

In part II twenty-three changes in the description and standards of official drugs and preparations are given.

The scarcity of fats in Holland during the war necessitated the issuing of a third supplement which was published in 1918 by the publishers of the second supplement. It is written in Latin and directs that crude oleic acid be used for making lead plaster, soft soap and tincture of soap. A description of the

acid and the requirements for it are given. Formulae are given for making glycerin ointment and glycerin ointment with sulphur, replacing fats, vaseline or paraffin, by starch paste.

These three official supplements give valuable information on the subjects they contain and make the Pharmacopoea Nederlandica an up-to-date book which compares favorably with all the modern pharmacopoeias.

*Supplement op de vierde Uitgave der Nederlandsche pharmacopoe. Uitgegeven door het Department Rotterdam de Nederlandsche Naatschappij ter bevordering der pharmacie.* De Gebroeders van Cleef, Publishers. 's Gravenhage. 1914.

In addition to the above three official supplements to the Pharmacopoea Nederlandica, a very comprehensive supplement has been published by the Dutch Society for the Advancement of Pharmacy. It is written in Dutch, is compiled by a committee of six and contains more than 400 additional subjects to the official Pharmacopoeia. In part I of the Supplement about 100 chemicals, 34 of which are official in the U. S. P. and 3 in the N. F., were added; further, 28 alkaloids, alkaloidal salts and glucosides, 9 of which appear in the U. S. P. and 2 in the N. F. It was found necessary to describe 36 new remedies, mostly synthetics, now in general use. Fifty-seven vegetable drugs were added; 12 of these are described in the U. S. P. and 10 in the N. F. The greatest number of additions is in the line of pharmaceutical preparations. There were added 5 vinegars, 21 waters, 33 fluidextracts and solid extracts, 15 pills, 18 powders, 10 medicated soaps, 24 syrups, 16 solutions, 6 species, 11 spirits, including 3 beverages (rum and two kinds of brandy), 41 tinctures, 20 ointments and 4 wines. Of these additions more than 100 are official in the U. S. P. and about 40 in the N. F. Corrosive sublimate tablets are made from equal parts of mercuric chloride and sodium chloride and are colored red with eosin.

In part II of the book 24 reagents for qualitative analysis and five volumetric solutions were added to those described in the Pharmacopoeia. Further, 28 reagents generally used for microscopic examinations, 18 of which are properly directed to be kept protected from light. Then follow lists of such poisonous substances as should be kept under lock and of such drugs as should be plainly

marked as poisons. A list of chemicals and solutions for filling galvanic batteries and finally a list of antidotes in cases of poisoning are given.

This supplement, together with the Pharmacopoeia, corresponds to our two dispensaries, although it covers fewer subjects than these. It is a very comprehensive compilation of modern pharmaceutical knowledge and is of great value to all engaged in pharmaceutical work.

*Codex Medicamentarius Homœopaticus Nederlandicus. Eddidit Vereeniging van Homœopathische Geneesheeren in Nederland.* J. H. de Bussy. Amstelodami. 1913. Up to 1913 Holland was without a homœopathic pharmacopoeia and was almost entirely dependent on the German, the British and American homœopathic pharmacopoeas. It was originally intended to publish a supplement to the Pharmacopoeia Nederlandica which should contain all those drugs and preparations used in homœopathic practice. A committee for preparing this supplement was nominated by the Government in 1904. In 1910 when the committee had completed its work it was decided not to attach this homœopathic part to the Pharmacopoeia but to publish it under a separate title, the *Nederlandisch Homœopathisch Artsenijboek*. The committee consisted of five members, and had the coöperation of the majority of the homœopaths in Holland.

The Codex is a very comprehensive work and includes all the drugs and preparations used in homœopathic practice. It contains about 70 chemicals, about 90 vegetable drugs and 3 drugs of animal origin, 55 essences, 35 homœopathic tinctures, but only three alkaloidal salts. Explicit directions are given for making the pharmaceutical preparations, such as essences, globules, triturations, etc.

In part II of the book are six tables, giving the percentages of alcohol in hydro-alcoholic mixtures by volume and weight, the percentage of juice and solid matter in fresh vegetable drugs, reagents used in qualitative analysis and atomic weights.

The Codex compares very favorably with other publications of this kind and should be in the library of every pharmacist engaged in dispensing homœopathic preparations. Although practically all the drugs and preparations in the Codex are given in the American homœopathic pharmacopoeia also, the description of the subjects in the former differs somewhat from that in the latter. The text is written in Latin.

*Formularium Medicamentorum Nederlandicum. F. M. N.* This pocket edition of pharmaceutical formulae compiled by a committee of five, two of whom were nominated by the Dutch Society for the Advancement of Medicine and three by the Dutch Society for the Advancement of Pharmacy, is a very useful book. The book was compiled in order that an authoritative and uniform recipe book might be had to replace those used in different parts of Holland. The booklet contains about 120 recipes for internal use, comprising 21 decoctions, 6 emulsions, 10 infusions, 20 mixtures, 25 pills, 30 powders, etc. In part II about 60 preparations for external use are given, among these 4 injections, 4 liniments, 6 lotions and 20 ointments. A tablespoonful is given as containing 15 mils, a dessertspoonful 8 mils and a teaspoonful 3 mils. In nearly all of the preparations the amount of drug in one teaspoonful, tablespoonful, wine-glassful, etc., respectively, is given. The booklet is written in Dutch and published in 1908 by Schletema and Holkema's Bookstore in Amsterdam.

H. E.

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