

required to obtain them. Applicants desiring to enter a school of pharmacy in good standing as defined in section 1303-2 of the General Code must submit certificates to the entrance examiner from their school authorities describing in full the work completed: Provided, that in the absence of all or any part of the foregoing qualifications, the applicant must present himself before the entrance examiner for the scheduled examinations: Provided further, that the applicants upon presentation of certificates from their school authorities or in case of examination, must pay in advance to the board of pharmacy a fee of three dollars. If the entrance examiner finds that the preliminary education of the applicant is sufficient, he shall issue to the applicant a certificate therefor which shall be attested by the secretary of the State Board of Pharmacy. The compensation of the entrance examiner shall be fixed by the State Board of Pharmacy.

Section 2. That said original sections 1302, 1303 and 1303-1, of the General code be and the same are hereby repealed.

OPIUM TRUST EXPOSE.

Harry Patrick, alias Richard Spaulding, alleged "King of Opium Smugglers," has been arrested in Chicago. He described before District Attorney Charles E. Clyne the workings of the "opium trust," of which he is a member.

He located caches where many hundreds of pounds of opium are hidden, and named his aids.

The arrest of Patrick is regarded by officials as an important step in the process of cleaning up a very large and complicated system of traffic in drugs. William H. Sage, chief of the narcotic division, declared that through Patrick clues may be obtained sufficient to discover the important accomplices in the "opium trust."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A Treatise on Prescription Incompatibilities, including Prescription Oddities and Curiosities. By W. J. Robinson, Ph.G., M.D., Editor of the Critic and Guide. First Edition. 263 pages. Published by the Critic and Guide Company, New York. \$3.00.

To one who is familiar with Dr. Robinson's literary technique and style there are no surprises in this *new* treatise on the *old* subject of prescription incompatibilities. He writes with his usual vigor and boldness and makes very interesting reading out of what would ordinarily be called monotonous and tiresome material. The one outstanding feature of the composition is its practicability, and this because of the sensible everyday way in which things are discussed. So often in a work of this kind there is much injected that is purely imaginative—the so-called analytical laboratory prescriptions—that are not encountered in actual practice and are just concocted to afford opportunity for discussion and possibly explanation. It is nevertheless often true that many physicians, because of their unfamiliarity with chemical facts, and sometimes with therapeutic properties, do actually write prescriptions that appear ridiculous to the physician who is a correct prescription writer and to the pharmacist who is up to date. Some such curiosities are exhibited and commented upon in this volume. Outside of

these few oddities the treatise is remarkably free from those superfluties that ordinarily abound in similar compositions.

The arrangement of the text, in common with other books on the subject, is not as desirable as it might be from an academic standpoint. The usual classification of incompatibilities is only casually referred to and no attempt made to group the prescriptions in their respective classes. Physical, chemical and therapeutic incompatibilities are served on the same pages and often there is no distinction made between them. Occasionally preventable incompatibility is passed by unremedied and such omissions disappoint the reader. Sometimes unwarranted comment is made, as in the case of the combination of quinine and aspirin, 413 (p. 196), where the alleged progressive but slow production of the poisonous "quinotoxin" by the action of the acetylsalicylic acid on quinine is ridiculed. As the prescription is written it is not incompatible, but if it is dispensed and allowed to stand around for a few months this change undoubtedly occurs. In 162 (p. 100) Dr. Robinson very caustically and properly denies the alleged dioxide and glycerin incompatibility.

A very interesting feature of the book is the list of prescriptions furnished without comment and merely to serve as practice material

for the reader. All of them are explained elsewhere in the text. An alphabetical summary of incompatibilities adds to the practical value of the volume and the complete cross-index gives it the finishing touch.

In a work of this kind it is apparently extremely difficult to avoid errors, not so much of commission as of omission. In that respect this book is not different from others of its kind. As examples of this we append the following instances taken at random from the text. In 9 (p. 20) attention is not called to the fact that tannin is not only incompatible with lime water but even with distilled water because of the hydrolytic reaction which occurs. In 58 (p. 43) no mention is made of the fact that the latest theory has it that the precipitated glycyrrhizin actually combines with the alkaloid forming a glycyrrhizinate of quinine. In 95 (p. 65) the statement is made that zinc sulphate is incompatible with borax but no statement is made

in regard to the inhibition of a precipitate by using boric acid in place of the borax, that is, in the absence of glycerin. In 341 (p. 171) the copious effervescence manifested when peroxide and formalin are mixed is not alluded to. In 372 (p. 179) the typographical error referred to could not have existed since the thymol would not be soluble in the prescribed menstruum. Lime water throughout the book is called aqua calcis, while the U. S. P. calls it liquor calcis.

These technicalities referred to are actually of not much significance and are overwhelmed by the excellent character of the book as a whole. The peculiarities of the newer remedies such as chlorazene, chloretone, etc., are also commented upon and this brings the volume well up to date. To the practicing pharmacist and physician and to the students of both professions the book will prove a very valuable companion.

IVOR GRIFFITH.

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