

## Book Reviews

**THE ART OF DISPENSING.** A Treatise on the Methods and Processes Involved in Compounding Medical Prescriptions, with Dictionaries of Abbreviations and Terms used in British and Foreign Prescriptions, Incompatibles and New Remedies, and Numerous Memoranda for Dispensers and Prescribers. By Peter MacEwan, F. C. S., Editor of *The Chemist and Druggist*. Ninth Edition. Cloth; 584 p; 6S.4d. *The Chemist and Druggist*, 42 Cannon St., London, E. C., Eng.

The first edition of this, the standard work on prescription practice in Great Britain, appeared in 1888, and contained 288 pages; the present revised and enlarged edition contains 584 pages.

After introductory chapters dealing with the general principles of dispensing and compounding, weights and measures, special drugs and dispensing conveniences, etc., the work takes up the solid forms of medicine, as pills, pellets, lozenges, pastilles, capsules, powders, suppositories, bougies and pessaries; then deals with the more or less semi-solid preparations, as ointments, plasters, pastes and jellies. Treatment of liquid medicines is begun with a chapter on mixtures, and is followed by chapters on emulsions, lotions, injections, ampoules, embrocations, liniments, sprays and inhalations.

The main portion of the text is followed by fairly complete and well balanced chapters on incompatibilities, foreign prescriptions, and a dictionary of terms used in French, German, Dutch Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese and Spanish prescriptions.

The chapter on New and Unofficial Remedies fills 58 pages, in double column, and furnishes information and dispensing notes on over seven hundred articles.

The work as a whole not only presents a resumé of the best prescription practice in Great Britain, but is almost equally useful for American dispensers and students.

J. H. BEAL.

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**A TREATISE ON COMMERCIAL PHARMACY.** Intended as a reference book and text book for pharmacists and their clerks. By D. Charles O'Connor; 408 pages, cloth, with numerous illustrations and plates. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$2.50 net.

The stereotyped "filling a long-felt want," may be justly applied to the above volume. Avowedly written from the commercial standpoint, it emphasizes the business side of pharmacy. It is written in a catholic spirit, however, and gives much wholesome advice respecting the professional and scientific side of the pharmacist's calling.

The idea of the book is to recognize existing conditions, and to set forth such plans and methods as will best enable the druggist to successfully grapple with the trade problems which are forced upon him.

The principal divisions are: Finance, Planning and Arranging of Business, Present and Future Problems, Thorough Knowledge of Business, Business Econ-

omies, Settlements and Store Service, Buying Goods, Salesmanship, Advertising, Window Displays, Special Sales and Side lines, and Business Building; each division containing two to eight chapters.

Altogether it is a thorough-going, wholesome treatise, and while we may deplore the fact that the business problems of the modern druggist overshadow his professional functions, we must welcome a book which considers the subject in so a thorough and adequate manner.

The volume is finely illustrated, and in general attains to the typographical excellence characteristic of the Lippincott publications.

J. H. BEAL.

MISROSCOPY AND THE MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DRUGS. By Charles E. Gabel, B. S., Ph. D. Microscopical Food and Drug Analyst, Iowa State Dairy and Food Commission. 113 pages, with blank pages for notes and drawings. Cloth. The Kenyon Co., Des Moines, Ia.

Part one consists of ten chapters dealing with light, lenses, simple and compound microscopes, microscopic photography, accessories, manipulation, histology, micro-chemistry, preparation and mounting of objects, plant cells, tissues and organisms, microscopy of starches, etc., with laboratory exercises and instructions.

Part two deals with the microscopic examination of drugs. Directions are given for the study of thirty-five important and more or less typical drugs, followed by appendices containing tables for the determination of cell contents, reagents of general utility, diagrams illustrating the action of lenses on light, cuts of microscopical and projection apparatus, bacteria, tissue systems, microphotographs of powdered drugs, etc.

J. H. BEAL.

E. MERCK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF RECENT ADVANCES IN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY AND THERAPEUTICS. Volume 24; 419 pages. Paper. E. Merck & Co.

This, the 24th volume of Merck's Annual Report, is similar in general character to its predecessors of the past few years, except as to its somewhat greater size.

The introductory chapter treats of the Cacodylates and their therapeutic uses, and covers 38 pages, giving a brief history of the introduction of the arsenium compounds, and dealing more extensively with later development of these compounds and their therapeutic application.

The second chapter presents a very readable account of the history of Kephir grains and their use in kephirizing milk.

The main body of the volume is devoted to abstracts from the world's medical and pharmaceutical literature on recent advances in pharmaceutical chemistry and therapeutics, beginning with Acetone and its use in the treatment of uterine carcinoma, and ending with Zinc Perhydrol.

The book also contains a Biographical Index, an Index of Authors, General Index, and an Index of Diseases, Symptoms and Indications for Treatment.

J. H. BEAL.