

There comes to the editorial table a volume entitled "The Preparation of Organic Drugs." Ernest Fourneau, head of the Pasteur Institute, member of the Academy of Medicine and director of the Poulenc Laboratories, is the author of this, one of the few books available for particulars as to the preparation of organic medicaments. There is no lack of detail in this volume such as is usual with others on this subject. Dr. Roux, director of the Pasteur Institute, has supplied a comprehensive preface in which he refers to the experience of Monsieur Fourneau in Madrid in practical laboratory demonstrations and in schools of pharmacy, and his theoretical and practical experience. These lessons are absolutely complete on every subject they touch. It is admitted that therapeutic researches are not greatly encouraged in France, the large number of new medicaments going to France from other countries. Monsieur Fourneau is convinced of the necessity of being independent of foreign lands for the important medicaments and in this volume has contributed much to incite young chemists to enter this work. The subject matter is divided into 2 parts: "Lessons" and "Practical Work." The first part of the book gives the rationale of the processes involved in the preparation of the organic compounds, and is clearly set out so that advanced students will have no difficulty in understanding. For example, in the first lesson relating to guaiacol the various steps in the preparation of orthonitrophenol are described, then the rules for nitration, other processes for preparing the nitrophenol, the methylation of pyrocatechin, and so on throughout this part of the book. The practical part describes the mounting of apparatus, with advice to beginners; many illustrations are given. This is followed by detailed accounts of the preparation of the various compounds, giving the quantities of reagents required, and full details as to manipulation. The yield is in nearly every case stated. The preparation of intermediate products is described with as much detail as the chief substance. The effect of a scanning of this work, which, by the way, is written in French, is to give the fingers and the brain instant occupation by following the formulas set down.

HELEN PITKIN SCHERTZ.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Story of Drugs. By H. C. Fuller. The *Centurion* states that this is a fascinating book on a subject rarely opened at all to laymen.

The author is H. C. Fuller of the Industrial Research Laboratories, Washington, D. C. What drugs are and where they come from; "Farming for Medicines;" patent medicines; vaccines and serums; vitamins (engagingly entitled "The spirit-world of Medicine"); the question of "dope;" cosmetics; the medical rôle of alcohol—all these are discussed. The publisher is the Century Co., 353 Fourth Ave., New York City, and the price is \$3.00.

The book has been written with the purpose in mind of giving the public a better understanding of drugs; considerable space is given to an exposition of the need of alcohol in pharmacy and pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing in an effort to dissociate in the minds of the people such employment from that of beverage, a use that no longer is lawful. The author presents the matter from every standpoint, arguments relative to which our readers are informed and therefore only the following quotations are given:

"In the national prohibition law alcohol is classed as a liquor. Its manufacture, sale, and use is surrounded by a mass of regulation that causes much hardship and dissatisfaction to the legitimate users. . . . The unfortunate circumstance is that alcohol as a medium for the manufacture of drugs and medicine has to be treated as a liquor. . . . It ought to be made the subject of special provisions and methods of administration; its legitimate use facilitated and not hampered."

The table of contents indicates the subjects discussed: What drugs are and where they come from; Beginnings and accomplishments of the medicine industry; How medicines are made; The rôle of alcohol; Farming for medicine; Patent medicines; their place in the economy of the nation; Nature's gift to mankind; Vaccines and serum therapy; In the spirit world of medicine; Vitamins; Dope and not dope; Self-medication—the family medicine chest; Paint, powder, and rouge: the height of the complexion; Hay fever: the malady of strenuous America; Legislation and its effect on the drug business.

Some will not wholly agree with the views expressed by the author on "patent medicines" and the family medicine chest, but this is a book written for the laity, for those who use these preparations, and the author's reasoning will lead the reader to think about practices he has heretofore followed without reasoning. Still there was an opportunity, in our opinion not fully taken advantage of by the author,

of impressing the readers with need of judgment in taking and giving medicines. Also, the advisability of specifically mentioning medicinal agents may in some instances be questioned.

The book may in some respects be compared with those written on chemistry for the laity, it is interesting and informative, and will give the readers a better understanding of drugs, and regulations that apply to their sale and dispensing, and create for them a somewhat different viewpoint relative to the druggist's responsibilities and his aim to give best service in subserving the interests of society, and of the importance of pharmacy.

There are about one hundred illustrations relating to drug culture, manufacturing and subjects previously referred to by title, also half-tones of a number of pharmacists and others engaged in contributory activities. Family trees: "Coal tar" drugs and their ancestry, and the relation of alcohol to the medicine industry are interesting illustrations.

The author states: "The topics and the subject-matter making up this volume have been inspired by the interrogations and discussions that a scientist, actively engaged in his profession, has encountered during two decades of almost daily contact with professional men of high and low degree, and with the various zones of culture making up our citizen population.

"The work is not intended as a scientific treatise; in fact, that is exactly what has been avoided. The object has been to present, as far as possible, in plain every-day terms and phraseology a story of the various phases of the drug industry, based, as before stated, on the diversified inquiries of non-scientific persons."

Liquor Potassii Arsenitis. By H. A. Langenhan. Part of thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin. Bulletin of the U. of Wis., Serial No. 1153; general series No. 936—A century of the United States Pharmacopoeia, 1820-1920.

The bulletin covers about sixty pages; the references are complete and important points are briefly discussed. Historical account of arsenic therapy is given and the chemistry of the arsenical solutions is searchingly considered. In the pages devoted to Fowler's Solution attention is given to the nomenclature and chemistry, and the preparation is the subject of thorough research from title and synonym to dose in the Pharmacopoeias

of the century; sixteen text subjects are commented on. The appendix gives account of the patents covering Fowler's Solution and reports of Thomas Fowler, M.D.

The monograph may be obtained from the University of Wisconsin for 35 cents; it is needless to enlarge on its value for the library.

Proceedings of the Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, held in New Orleans September 5-6, 1921. The book contains the usual reports, list of membership, roster of officers and committees, papers, etc. A sketch of the late Prof. Henry Parr Hynson by Dr. John F. Hancock accompanies a picture of the deceased.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Elements of Fractional Distillation. By Clark Shove Robinson. International Chemical Series. 204 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$2.50 net. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York.

Equations: First Course in the Theory of Equations. By Leonard Eugene Dickson. 168 pp. 26 figures. Price, \$1.75 net. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

Handbook of Laboratory Glass-Blowing. By Bernard D. Bolas. 106 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$1.50. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.

The Microscope. By Conrad Beck. 144 pp. Price, 2s. 6d. R. & J. Beck, Ltd., London.

Microscope, Its Design, Construction and Application. By F. S. Spiers, Editor. 260 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$5.50. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.

Organic Chemistry: Fundamental Principles of Organic Chemistry. By Chas. Mouréu. Translated from 6th French edition by W. T. K. Braunholtz. 399 pp. Price, 12s. 6d. net. G. Bell & Sons, Ltd., London.

Perfumes, Essential Oils and Fruit Essence Used for Soap and Other Toilet Articles: A Concise and Practical Account, Including Their Chief Constants, Methods of Analysis, and Numerous Practical Recipes, for the Chief Perfuming Mixtures. By Geoffrey Martin. 145 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$3.50. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York.

Physics: Essentials of Physics. By George Arthur Hoadley. Revised edition. 544 pp. Illustrated. Price, \$1.60. American Book Co., New York.

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