BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The British Pharmaceutical Codex, an Imperial dispensatory for the use of medical practitioners and pharmacists. By the direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Published by the Pharmaceutical Press, 72, Great Russell St., W. C., London.

This work represents the third edition of the Codex. As indicated above, the book simulates the dispensatories; it is, however, more convenient to use and describes by far a greater number and variety of preparations. The style of the book is not changed from the original edition, a tribute to the painstaking efforts of the pioneers in this valuable work.

It contains 1669 pages, of which more than 100 are given over to the index. The book comprises two principal parts. The first part is devoted to a description of simple drugs. The second part, styled the British Pharmaceutical Codex Formulary, covers some 340 pages presenting formulas for a great number of preparations. In the monographs of the simple drugs a decided advantage is found in having printed in bold-face type the words "incompatible," "administered," "poisoning," "internally," and "external," which direct attention directly to specific information sought without the necessity of going through the entire article.

Another most helpful feature is found following the monograph of the drug in a list of preparations into which the drug enters. Each preparation is described in considerable detail as to the strength, method of preparation, dose and synonym. After the monograph of Opium no less than thirty-two of its preparations are listed.

In the second part of the book, the Formulary, may be found directions for the preparation of baths, ampuls, nasal bougies, medicated gauze and cotton, eye lotions, surgical dressings, bandages and enemas, which are not commonly given in similar books.

The quantities in the several formulas are given first in the metric system, then in the Imperial system. It has a similar dual system of weights and measures in the formulas that provoked so much criticism of our third National Formulary. The Codex Revision Committee evidently seeks to forestall such criticism by printing in the Formulary a statement, that "in certain instances there may not be exact correspondence between the two sets of figures."

After the several recipes comes a collection of formulas for test solutions and microscopical stains; a table of coefficients of expansion for a number of liquids; an extensive pharmacological and therapeutic index; and about five pages devoted to proprietary trade-names and their chemical equivalents.

For a volume of such proportions it is gratifyingly free from typographical errors and imperfections.

The work of revision has been admirably done and reflects much credit on the Revision Committee.

The British Pharmaceutical Society merits the gratitude of medical men and pharmacists for this distinct addition to the reference books for the allied professions.

CLYDE M. SNOW.

Surface Tension and Surface Energy and Their Influence on Chemical Phenomena. By R. S. Willows, M.A., D.Sc., and E. Hatschek. 3rd Edition, viii + 136 pages with 25 illustrations. P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Philadelphia, 1923.

The third edition of this small volume while continuing to carry the two names of the original authors is the work of Willows alone. His various contributions to the experimental and mathematical development of our knowledge of surface physics and chemistry gives his word the weight of authority.

As in the older editions this volume is divisible roughly into four sections, a discussion of the concepts of surface tension and surface energy, a discussion of the relations between surface tension and the physical and chemical constants of the materials exhibiting such, a special chapter on surface tension as influenced by the electric charge and a final one illustrative of the rôle of surface energy in various physical and chemical processes as those of emulsification, dyeing, tanning and flotation.

The final chapter is by far the most clearly written in the volume and might well have been put first. While the original authors have limited their mathematics "to what is absolutely essential" it still constitutes the bulk of the volume. Their decision to give "few experimental details" is also not without its shortcomings. How can the critical student know that a physical principle is really a principle except as he can pick no flaw in the experiments upon which such principle is founded. Willows' additions to the third issue