

in communications to the Journal A. Ph. A. the subject will be brought to the attention of every publication in the United States and Canada.

*Merck's Manual of the Materia Medica.*—A ready-reference pocket book for the physician and surgeon. 5th edition,  $4 \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Compiled and published by Merck & Co., New York. Cloth, 50 cents, artificial leather, \$1.00.

While this book is intended principally as a pocket reference book for physicians, pharmacists and members of the allied professions will find much that will be informative and helpful to them. The contents of the volume are arranged in four parts. Part I embraces drugs, chemicals and preparations—not confined to "Merck's" alone—and gives their synonyms, solubilities, physiological effects, therapeutic uses, doses, incompatibles, antidotes, and other useful information; Part II, on therapeutic indications, summarizes the principal means of treatment for each form of disease, giving numerous standard prescription formulas; Part III classifies the various medicaments according to their physiological action; Part IV comprises a comprehensive essay on poisoning and its treatment; an exhaustive dose table; a chart showing the diagnostic points of difference between the eruptive fevers; thermometric equivalents; approximate metric equivalents; a comprehensive chapter on urinalysis; a list of remedies which interfere with urinary tests; tables on infant feeding, and much other useful data.

*A Bibliography of Colloid Chemistry.*—By Harry N. Holmes. The National Research Council has recently issued a Colloid Bibliography in mimeographed form. The author, Dr. Harry N. Holmes of Oberlin College, Chairman of the National Research Council Committee on the Chemistry of Colloids, intends this edition to be preliminary to a more comprehensive one. Yet it is a book of 135 pages containing 1800 references on 106 topics. All the references are classified and many are accompanied by brief comment as an aid in deciding on their relative importance. This book of 135 pages may be purchased from the Washington office at \$1.00.

Among the classified groups are Adsorption, Asphalt, Baking, Biocolloids, Capillary Analy-

sis, Casein, Cellulose and Cellulose Esters, Cements, Clays and Soils, Cleansing, Coagulation, Dialysis, Emulsions, Filtration, Flotation, Foam, Flour, Fogs, Gels, Gelatin, Glass, Glues, Peptization, Petroleum, Photography, Protein Swelling, Protection, Rubber, Sewage, Silver, Soap, Sulfides, Surface Tension, Tanning, Ultramicroscope, Viscosity and Water Proofing.

The theoretical and industrial importance of colloid chemistry is now admitted without question. In fact it links together the sciences of chemistry, physics, zoölogy, botany, geology, medicine, agriculture and even astronomy, whenever that science deals with comets' tails. Few are the industries that do not have colloid problems to solve. The average citizen is surprised to learn that his own body is colloidal in composition, that his digestive processes are governed by colloidal rules of action and that the bacteria of disease are of a colloidal degree of dispersion. And he is astonished to learn that but for the colloidal adsorption of calcium phosphate from the blood stream by his bony cartilage he would be a mere spineless jelly fish; and colloid chemistry is surface chemistry, it is of importance to this same average citizen to know that the total surface of his blood corpuscles is about one acre.

Plant and animal tissue is largely colloidal too, and should be studied from that viewpoint.

*Optical Methods in Control and Research Laboratories.*—By J. N. Goldsmith, Ph.D., M.Sc., F.I.C.; S. Judd Lewis, D.Sc., B.Sc., F.I.C., Ph.C.; F. Twyman, F. Inst. P. Vol I. (Second Edition, November, 1922).—Spectrum Analysis, Absorption Spectra, Refractometry, Polarimetry. Published by Adam Hilger, Ltd., 75A Camden Road, London, N. W. 1 England. 60 pages. Limp Cloth. Price 1 s. 8 d. It is a guide to applications and to the selection of apparatus. The five illustrations of the book show—arc spectra of lead and copper, absorption spectrum of pseudo-globulin solution, spectroscopic determination of chlorophylls, absorption spectrum of uric acid solution, and absorption curve of anthracene.

*Epidemiological and Statistical Data, U. S. Navy, 1918.*—Reprint from the annual report of Surgeon General, U. S. Navy for the fiscal year 1919. 574 pages. A number of tables and charts are included.