

The foregoing is from an editorial of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*; the speed of enacting laws above referred to was nearly equaled in the session of January 31, when 137 measures were passed through; the general character was about the same as that of the holiday rush.

DRUG CONFERENCE FAILS TO AGREE —OPIUM AGREEMENT IS AGAIN IN SIGHT.

The title expresses the condition of "now it is—now it isn't" and really at this writing it is difficult to determine whether the reference in the editorial prepared for this issue is correct or incorrect.¹

One dispatch of January 31 reads: "The joint commission of the two opium conferences failed to-day to bring forth the magic formula for solving the perplexing problem of how and when to abolish opium smoking in the Far East.

Great Britain, France and Holland, in whose Far Eastern possessions opium smoking pre-

vails under governmental supervision, explained that suppression within a definite term of years was impracticable and dangerous, until the illicit cultivation of the poppy should be checked in China and some means found to prevent smuggling into other Oriental countries.

Another item informs that "the committee of sixteen appointed to seek a compromise between the first and second opium conferences held its first meeting this afternoon.

"The British attitude toward the prepared opium traffic was supported by France, Holland and Portugal, who are more or less agreed on a common plan. There is a good possibility of this being combined with the American proposals to make an agreement satisfactory to everybody."

Mrs. Hamilton Wright has been unable to attend the last meetings of the conference, because of illness, and a session was held February 3.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Introduction to Organic Research. By E. Emmet Reid, Professor of Organic Chemistry in Johns Hopkins Univ. Pp. 343. D. Van Nostrand Company, New York, 1924. Price \$4.50.

The purpose of the author in the preparation of a work bearing the above title may be indicated by the following statement which occurs in the preface: "Research as a vocation, or even as an avocation, offers alluring joys to the individual as well as benefits to the race. This book is put forth with the hope of assisting those beginning research and of aiding some not now engaged in it to take it up."

It may be well to note in the first place that the plan of this work with reference to its character and scope is quite different from that generally adopted in chemical textbooks. Inasmuch as it consists of a series of essays and special monographs on topics pertaining to research it is apparently not intended to serve so much as a work of reference as to inculcate those principles upon which successful research may be considered to depend. It would therefore appear to the writer of this review that the title of the book does not convey a perfectly correct idea of the subject-matter, for it is believed that under such a title as "Introduction to Organic

Research" one would expect to find a more detailed account of the methods involved in special lines of investigation. If the suggestion may be permitted, it would seem that the purpose in view might be more appropriately indicated if the work were entitled: "Qualifications for Organic Research."

The contents of the book have been divided into eighteen chapters which bear respectively the following titles: I. On Research; II. Concerning Researchers; III. Incentives to Research; IV. Problems; V. Chemical Literature; VI. Secondary Publications; VII. Libraries; VIII. Literature Searches; IX. Patent Searches; X. Study of Known Compounds; XI. Preparation of Known Substances; XII. Preparation of New Compounds; XIII. Synthesis of Medicinals; XIV. Study of Structure; XV. Study of Reactions; XVI. Organic Analysis; XVII. Plant Processes; XVIII. Writing up Results. Several of these chapters, which have numerous subdivisions, are interspersed with quotations from prominent chemists or contain short articles written especially by them for the book. A few of the chapters represent special contributions by various authors, such as that on "Synthesis of Medicinals" by Dr. A. D. Hirschfelder; on the "Study of Reactions" by F. O. Rice; on the "Quantitative Analysis of Mixtures of Organic Compounds" by Professor Louis F. Wise, and

¹ According to Associated Press the American delegation withdrew from the International Opium Conference.

on "Plant Processes from Laboratory Experiments" by C. M. Stine.

It is rarely the case that any book is free from error, and inasmuch as the author of the present work has stated that he will welcome suggestions, additions or corrections, a few criticisms may be noted. In the chapter on "Synthesis of Medicinals" it is stated (page 223) that the alkaloids are "all either primary, secondary or tertiary substituted ammonia derivatives, most of them the last," but in view of the complexity of plant alkaloids such a definition is certainly not sufficiently comprehensive to be of much value to the student. No uniformity has been observed in the termination of the names of the alkaloids mentioned, and, although in English it is a generally accepted rule that the names of all organic bases should end with the syllable *ine*, we find such variations as morphine, narcotin and papaverin, atropine and atropin, pilocarpin, spartein, caffeine, etc. The typographical errors in this chapter are also somewhat numerous. Thus on page 232 "acetphenitidin" should be acetphenetidid, "antpyrine" should be antipyrine, on page 234 "physostegmin" should be physostigmine, on page 235 "hyescin" is evidently intended for hyoscine, on page 237 "erythol tetranitrate" should be erythrol tetranitrate, and on page 238 "theophylline" should be theophylline. Another typographical error that has incidentally been noted occurs on page 213, fourth line from the top, where "hydrobarbons" should read hydrocarbons.

The formula for quinine, as given on page 241, is neither empirically nor structurally correct, as part of the formula has been omitted. The structural formula given for morphine (page 231), which is that of Pschorr, has now been discarded, as its constitution is believed to be more correctly represented by the somewhat modified structure proposed by Gulland and Robinson.

Notwithstanding the few imperfections, which can easily be eliminated in a subsequent edition, the book contains much of interest. It will doubtless be found useful to those who are entering upon a career of research and especially helpful to such students of chemistry as have not received adequate guidance and instruction from their teachers respecting the fundamental methods and principles that are so essential for success.

F. B. POWER.

Essentials of Pharmacy, by Clyde M. Snow, Ph.G., A.M. Professor of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, School of Pharmacy. Second

edition, 752 pages. Cloth. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis. \$5.50.

This book originally brought out in 1919 is now in the second edition made necessary because the first printing is exhausted. The fact that the book has gone into the second edition is evidence that it is a success.

At first glance one might be inclined to call the book a quiz-compend since the text is presented by the question and answer method. However, a closer inspection reveals that each subject is treated quite as exhaustively as in the standard textbooks. In fact, one finds that the preparations of the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary are accorded more attention than in other textbooks, which no doubt reflects the author's favorite field of endeavor in educational work. Since the questions and answers are in logical sequence the volume is of especial value to the student and to the candidate for registration. Because of the very complete index of some 31 pages it forms an excellent addition to the library of the teacher and to the equipment of the practicing pharmacist, since it is possible to readily find information on any involved question in pharmacy.

A timely addition is made to this second edition in the introduction of some sixteen pages on the subjects of alligation and measurement of gases which must prove of very considerable value to the student, since he usually experiences much trouble in these phases of pharmaceutical instruction.—GUSTAV BACHMAN.

A Systematic Hand Book of Volumetric Analysis or the Quantitative Determination of Chemical Substances. By Measure Applied to Liquids, Solids and Gases. Eleventh edition. By Francis Sutton, F.I.C., F.C.S. Revised throughout with additions by W. Lincoln Sutton, F.I.C. and Alfred E. Johnson, B.Sc., Lond., F.I.C., A.R.C. S. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1924. Price \$9.00.

This new edition of the popular work on volumetric analysis which has so long been a standard is welcomed with a great deal of interest. It is practically the same size as the tenth edition and its scope as revealed by examination of the table of contents is about the same. There has been some rearrangement and much revision of the subject matter and some changes which result in nine parts instead of seven as in the tenth edition. Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4 are identical in scope with those of the previous edition. Part 5 of the old edition which was on applied methods of analysis is separated into two parts consisting of