

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Memoranda of Toxicology. By Max Trumper, B.S., A.M., formerly Lecturer on Toxicology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, with Introduction and Addenda by Henry Leffmann, A.M., M.D., Emeritus Pathologic Chemist, Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. Pocket size, Flexible Binding, Round Corners, XII + 230 pages, \$1.50. Publishers, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia, December 1925.

Here, at last, we have a small book, but quite up to date, at a reasonable price, that is ideal for the pharmacist and the pharmacy student. Partly based upon Dr. Tanner's "Memoranda of Poisons," it follows that author's scheme of classification of poisons. The book is, therefore, divided into four parts. In Part I, the author devotes ten chapters to "General Toxicology" and the "Corrosives;" in Part II, four chapters are devoted to "Simple Irritants;" in Part III, ten chapters to "Specific Irritant Poisons;" and in Part IV, ten chapters to "Neurotic Poisons."

Toxicology, in its broadest sense, includes also treatment of poisoning. The value of the book would be materially increased if a statement regarding the treatment were given in connection with each poison as it is taken up, even the statement that the treatment is the same as given for some preceding poison would be of much value. For the following poisons, either no treatment is given or, if given, is difficult to find—Hydrofluoric Acid, page 41; Tartaric Acid, page 46; Bromine, page 87; Barium, page 130; Morphine, page 144; Formaldehyde, page 159; *Cocculus Indicus*, page 160; Darnel Seeds, page 160; *Datura*, page 165; Nightshade, page 167; *Curare*, page 174; Calabar Bean, page 175; *Conium*, page 175; Tobacco, page 186; *Lobelia*, page 187; *Colchicum*, page 187; or for any of the Abortives, page 198.

The author has had some difficulty with his botanical names; some specific names which should be written with capitals are written with small letters and some that should be written with small letters are written with capitals—it should be *Lolium temulentum*, not "L. Temulentum;" *Atropa Belladonna*, not "A. belladonna;" *Datura Stramonium*, not "D. stramonium;" *Solanum Dulcamara*, not "S. dulcamara;" *Erythroxylon Coca*, not "E. coca;" *Strychnos Nux-vomica*, not "S. nux-vomica," and *S. Ignatii*, not "S. ignatii;" *Physostigma venenosum*, not "P. Venenosum;"

Conium maculatum not "C. Maculatum;" *Aconitum Napellus*, not "A. napellus;" *Digitalis purpurea*, not "D. Purpurea;" *Nicotiana Tabacum* not "N. Tabacum;" *Lobelia inflata*, not "Lobelia Inflata;" *Colchicum autumnale* not "C. Autumnale;" *Asagraea officinalis*, not "Asagraea officinalis."

Alkaloids should end in *ine*, not in *in*; eserin should be eserine; colchicin should be colchicine, and veratrin should be veratrine.

The author on page 178 speaks of *Aconite* as an indigenous plant; *Aconitum Napellus* is not indigenous to our country.

Other mistakes noticed in spelling are antipyrin, for antipyrine; acetanilide for acetanilid, and phenacetine for phenacetin. On page 160, "*Cocculus Inducis*," should be *Cocculus Indicus*; "Pharmacopea" and "Pharmacopeia" should be *Pharmacopœia*; and tetraethyl lead should be "tetraethyl or tetrethyl" wherever the word is used and not once "tetraethyl" and again "tetrethyl." Other mistakes have crept in but are much less important.

In spite of the above criticisms, the book is a step in the right direction, the production of a book describing the effects of the more important poisons and their treatment, and published at a price within the reach of the average student.—CHARLES C. PLIRT.

Practical Pharmacognosy. By T. E. Wallis, B.Sc. (Lond.), F. I. C., Ph.C., Lecturer in Botany to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; with 81 illustrations, 115 pages. London. J. & A. Churchill, 1925.

This combined manual and text is designed for 18 laboratory exercises in Part I and contains a Key for the recognition of medicinal plants in Part II. In each exercise is presented the schedule of instructions, followed by notes on the exercise. The exercises do not follow any of the usual schemes found in "pharmacognosies" but present microscopical studies of typical starches, hairs and fibers, spores and pollen, plant hairs, structure of leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds, barks, rhizomes and roots.

It is especially worthy of note that microchemical tests are frequently employed in these exercises as well as a number of tests that are not observed with the microscope. This feature of pharmacognosy is of increasing interest and is constantly receiving more attention from teachers of pharmacognosy.

This book by Prof. Wallis has been splen-

didly designed and should prove attractive to students and teachers of pharmacognosy.—

E. N. GATHERCOAL.

The Technology of Wood Distillation. By M. Klar, Translated from the Second German Edition by Alex. Rule. D. Van Nostrand and Company, 8 Warren Street, New York. Price, \$7.50.

This is a book of 21 chapters, covering 485 pages of text, 11 pages of index, and contains about 50 illustrations made mostly from line drawings which serve to give the reader clear ideas as to the arrangement and operation of apparatus. There are also about 50 tabular arrangements of data, and 7 flow-sheets, all full of valuable information. The information in the book seems to have been drawn from some 30 different periodicals, mostly foreign, as well as from the author's own experience. The final chapter was written by the translator and is intended to bring into the book the latest data concerning wood distillation industries, the original work not having been revised for some years.

The chief phases of the industry considered are: History, Raw Materials, Chemical Changes, Products, Preparation of Wood, Arrangement of Apparatus, Treatment of Products, Methods of Obtaining Intermediate and Final Products from the Primary Distillate, Briquetting of Charcoal, Analysis of Raw Materials, Intermediate and Finished Products Both Qualitatively and Quantitatively.

The subject seems to be very well covered, and both author and translator are to be complimented for having put into very readable and intelligible form a mass of information about an industry the importance of which is not realized by the layman and, perhaps, not by many chemists outside of those immediately concerned. Paper, binding, typography and press-work leave little to be desired from a mechanical point of view. The reviewer commends it not only to those directly interested in the industry, but to others who would care to read a good résumé of it.

F. P. STROUP.

Die Alkaloide. Von Prof. Dr. Julius Schmidt in Stuttgart and Prof. Dr. Viktor Grafe in Wien, Mit 15 Textabbildungen. Lex. 636 pp. Urban und Schwarzenburg, Friedrichstr 105 B, Berlin N.

Many are the published books on alkaloids, but the one before us is one of the most thor-

ough and complete. It is Part Nine of Division I, "Chemical Methods" of the monumental work "Handbuch der biologischen Arbeitsmethoden" by Abderhalden and his collaborators, to which the referee had the pleasure to direct attention on many previous occasions.

The two divisions of the book are as follows:

I. Detection of Alkaloids Containing Extraction, Precipitation Methods, Color Reactions, Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis and Microchemical Analysis.

II. Structure and Synthesis, Containing Phenyloxyalkylamines, Pyridine, Pyrrolidine, Quinoline, Isoquinoline, Phenanthrene and Purine Groups.

In connection with a research on Papaverine the referee found that the book devoted 16 pages to this alkaloid and naturally many more pages to the more important ones. Surely an example of the proverbial thoroughness of the two German authors! The book is a masterwork on the subject of Alkaloids.

Verlag S. Karger, Karlstr. 15, Berlin N. W. 6, submitted the following two books for review:

Kurzes Lehrbuch der Chemischen Physiologie, Von Dr. Ernst Schmitz. Lex. 334 pp. Mk. 7.20.

The author prefers the title "Chemical Physiology" to the one "Physiological Chemistry." He is an authority on this subject, being Professor and Director of the Physiological Institute, University of Breslau. The treatment of the subject is plain, concise, and truly practical. It will therefore appeal to both student and laboratory worker. Pharmacists should also possess more knowledge on this subject and the book can be highly recommended for this purpose.

Die Insulinbehandlung bei Diabetes Mellitus. Von Prof. H. Strauss und Dr. M. Simon, Berlin 4, vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Octavo 74 pp. Mk. 3.

Only two years old and in its fourth edition. This speaks for itself. It is surprising how much information there is contained in these 74 pages. Four pages alone are devoted to the history of insulin and the bibliography comprises nine pages in small print. An excellent treatise of this subject.

The well-known publisher, Curt Kabitzsch, Dörrienstr 16, Leipzig, sent the two following books for review:

Pathologische Biologie (Immunitätswissenschaft). Von Prof. Dr. Hans Much in Hamburg. 5. Auflage mit 8 Tafeln und 7 Abbildungen. Lex. 415 pp. \$3.00.

Since the publication of the first edition in 1910 the science of immunity or pathologic biology has made such rapid progress that five editions have been necessitated. Among the 13 chapters into which the work is divided, I want to mention the following headings: I. Biology. III. Immunity and Virulence. VI. Toxins, comprising Diphtheria, Tetanus, Botulism, Dysentery, Gasbacilli and Snake Venoms. IX. Biologic Medication. X. Idiosyncrasy. XI. Biologic Diagnosis. XII. Colloidal Chemistry and Reactions.

Among the eight excellent full-page plates in colors, real works of art, the following are of special interest: V. Quantitative Wassermann Reaction from Negative to 5 Positive. VII. Tubercular Reaction. VII. Conjunctival Reaction.

A 10-page, double column index concludes this book, which can rightly be considered an authority on this subject.

Laienärzte und Schulmedizin. Von Dr. Curt Wachtel in Dresden. Mit 11 Abbildungen im Text. Lex. 130 pp. 85 cents.

The book before us treats "Lay Physicians and School Medicine," or "Irregular and Regular Physicians." The chapter on History of Medicine in a condensed form occupies six pages and also refers to Schelenz "Geschichte der Pharmazie." Besides the Diagnostic Methods, Nature's Methods, an entire chapter is devoted to Drug Therapy subdivided into Homeopathy, Isopathy, Biochemical Treatment, Rademacher, Baunscheidtism and Electro-homoeopathy.

Of special interest to the historian are the many data on the history of medicine and pharmacy contained in the book.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, PH.M.

Illustrations of Medicinal Plants. The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants has issued another set of color plates of medicinal plants indigenous to France. These, the fourth of the series, include belladonna, bilberry, buckthorn, yellow gentian, hawthorn, juniper, mullein and peppermint. The plates, like those of the preceding series, are excellent productions, they also have brief descriptions of the illustrated plants, information relative to their occurrence, collection, therapeutic properties, etc.

Year Book of New York Retail Druggists'

Association. The annual volume issued by the Publication Committee of N. Y. R. D. A. contains a number of interesting articles by Dr. Jacob Diner, T. Bruce Furnival, M. A. Feinberg, Peter Diamond, J. Leon Lascoff, S. Kopald and others of prominence in New York pharmacy. A tribute from U. S. Senator Royal S. Copeland and a greeting from Ex-Governor Smith are included. Pincus Herz is the Chairman of the Publication Committee and the editorial work has been done by M. A. Feinberg with the assistance of Barnett Miller, W. H. Moran, and others. The volume reflects credit.

The Official Year Book and Guide, of the Italian Pharmaceutical Association of New York, has been issued by the Press Committee of the Association; the Chairman is B. Gagliano and associated with him are Domenico Crachi, Arthur Colkin, and U. J. Nicolich. Contributions from a number of men prominent in pharmacy throughout the country are included.

PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CANNABIS INDICA IN MEXICO.

The Mexican Pharmaceutical Society has drawn the attention of the Health Department of Mexico to a situation which obtains because of the prohibition of the use of Indian Hemp. Some of the medical profession continue to prescribe and the Society asked that the Department advise the doctors that the use of Indian Hemp is prohibited. In its reply the Department pointed out that in the *Materia Medica* there are a number of substitutes possessing an action similar to Cannabis Indica, and asked the pharmacists to advise the doctors of substitutes that could be used and acquaint them with the benefits accruing by suppressing the therapeutic use of the prohibited drug, and that the physicians will, doubtless, be glad to cooperate with the authorities for the welfare of the nation. The pharmacists contend that it is not in their province to recommend substitutes and such action on their part would be resented by most physicians.

The Committee of the Biologic Products of the N. A. R. D. and A. Ph. A. arranged a lecture, February 18th, at the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. Dr. Geo. F. Leonard was the lecturer. Dr. Geo. E. Diekman gave his permission for the Biologic Committee to arrange a lecture on March 20th at New York College of Pharmacy, at which time Dr. C. W. Brown was the speaker.