

and value to the pharmacist and should find a place on the book shelf of every drug store.—A. G. DuMEZ.

Die Methoden der Organischen Chemie. Unter Mitwirkung von Fachgenossen, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. J. Houben, o. Mitglied der Biologischen Reichsanstalt, a. o. Professor an der Universität Berlin. 3. Völlig umgearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. I. Band. Allgemeiner Teil 1340 pp. mit 2 Tafeln und 851 Abbildungen. MK. 66—Verlag von Georg Thieme, Anton str. 15, Leipzig.

Only four years ago Vol. I of the second edition of this "masterwork" was published. Surely a testimonial of the popularity and value of the work. Houben's *Methods of Organic Chemistry* is one of the standard works on this subject.

Vol. I comprises the General Part and has been enlarged by the addition of three new chapters, namely "Interferometry," "Determination of Hydrogen-Ion Concentration" and "Determination of Molecular Compounds by Thermal Analysis," which brings the work right up to date, and which is the aim of the author and his collaborators, all authoritative on the respective subjects assigned to them.

Among the 46 chapters treated in this General Part, I want to point out the following, besides the three just mentioned: Elementary Organic Analysis by Prof. Dr. H. Simonis; Simplified Elementary Analysis by Prof. Dr. M. Dennstedt; Organic Micro-Analysis by Prof. Dr. J. V. Dubsky; Volumetric Analysis by Prof. Dr. A. Sonn; Colorimetry by Prof. Dr. G. Reddellien; Capillary Analysis by Dr. H. Rheinboldt; Heating and Drying by Dr. Ing. Wilhelm Steinkopf; Agitation, Clarification and Decolorizing by Dr. J. Herzog; Decantation and Filtration by Prof. Dr. J. Houben; Distillation by Dr. Christ. J. Hansen; Melting Point by Reg. Rat Dr. Rich. Kempf; Specific Gravity by Prof. Dr. A. Byk; Polarization by Prof. Dr. H. Schreiber; Molecular Weight by Prof. Dr. H. Simonis; Viscosity by Dr. H. Rheinboldt. Some of these names are also well known in pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry!

How thoroughly the material is treated can be seen from the following few advantages. The List of Abbreviations used in the book occupies four pages. The value of the work is greatly enhanced by the addition of a copious bibliography in the form of footnotes, for instance seven on pp. 242, 256, 429 and 786, eight on p. 42 and as many as nine on p. 430.

The book is fully illustrated with 551 (not 551 as stated on cover) excellent illustrations, well arranged and clearly explained. The Appendix contains five very useful tables. The Subject Index consists of 16 double-column pages and the Authors Index of 18 three-column pages.

The book is a library in itself and should be in the hands of all interested and should surely find a place in the libraries and laboratories of our Colleges.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, PH.M.

A MEDIEVAL DIET BOOK.

A treatise on how to develop the brain has been found in the archives of Strasbourg. The book was written in 1532 by Laurence Fries and in it he states: "A person who works with his brains, 'should confine himself to a diet of the following 'brain foods:' fried fowl, fresh poached eggs (not boiled, fried or scrambled), apples, quinces, hazel nuts and red wine." He especially opposed eating all so-called "red meats" because they develop physical strength to the detriment of mental faculties.

JOHN BARTRAM READ OUT OF MEETING.

Events of about 150 years ago are of interest at this time, because of the Sesqui-Centennial at the A. PH. A. Convention City. John Bartram, whose botanic garden on the Schuylkill still is open to visitors, was read out of Meeting (Friends) because of views not so different from some present-day thought. The step was regretted but the botanist held to his views, and that none might misunderstand his faith he chiseled into a stone over the door of his house, still standing, the inscription:

"To God alone: the Almighty Lord,
The Holy One by me adored—John
Bartram 1770."

SPEYER VISITING PROFESSORSHIP.

The Speyer visiting professorship, which was established with a \$50,000 endowment by James Speyer, senior member of the banking house of Speyer & Co., New York, is for the purpose of providing for an exchange of knowledge between Germany and the United States.

Dr. Karl Ferdinand Herzfeld, professor at the University of Munich, was the first scientist named under the above provision. He has completed his work at Johns Hopkins and is now at the University of Illinois.