

writ requiring Warden John W. Snook to produce Dr. Frank Sofge, a Federal prisoner serving time for a narcotic violation.

Judge Sibley also denied a motion for bail for Dr. Sofge pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. In denying both the habeas corpus writ and the motion for bail Judge Sibley announced that he was forced to uphold the decision of the Supreme Court in the Doremus case, in which the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Law was held constitutional.

GERMANY BANS PROPYL ALCOHOL USE AS DRUG.

The German Minister of Public Welfare, in response to an inquiry as to the permissibility of the use of propyl and iso-propyl alcohol in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, has stated that ethyl alcohol is the only alcohol suited for making tinctures and the like, basing his argument on the rules and regulations of the German Pharmacopœia.

He claimed that it is altogether too early to countenance the use of propyl alcohol or

iso-propyl alcohol in the place of ethyl alcohol, because its effect on the human organism is not yet thoroughly understood. A distinction must not be made between medicinals used externally and internally in this connection. Restriction of the use of propyl and iso-propyl alcohols for pharmaceutical purposes also applies to their use in the manufacture of cosmetics, for many cosmetics have a more or less medicinal use.—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.*

PRICE MAINTENANCE TO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE.

A special subcommittee will be appointed next winter to consider price maintenance legislation, according to Representative Parker of New York, chairman of the House committee on interstate commerce. The subcommittee, it was stated, will go over the testimony and briefs presented to the full committee, will receive suggestions from parties interested in the legislation, and make changes that may be deemed necessary to perfect the bill.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Chemistry and Recent Progress in Medicine. The Dohme lectures for 1924. By Julius Stieglitz, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Chemistry in the University of Chicago, 5³/₄ × 8¹/₂, VIII + 62 pages. Bound in cloth stamped in gold \$1.50, in paper \$0.75. Published for The Johns Hopkins University by The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore.

This volume contains the second series of the Charles E. Dohme Memorial Lecturers. In these lectures, the author has endeavored to bring up-to-date the record of the relation between chemistry and medicine as it is outlined in the "Report on the Future Independence and Progress of Medicine in the Age of Chemistry," prepared by a committee of the American Chemical Society in 1921. That he has done admirably well, all who read the volume must admit.

The subject has been approached from two main points of view, namely: from the standpoint of the materials which have to do with the cure and prevention of diseases and from the point of view of the functional or dynamic side of chemical action.

Beginning with an account of the recent discovery of the advantages of ethylene gas

as an anesthetic, the author reviews the more recent advances in the field of chemotherapy and the isolation (partial or complete) of the active principles of the internal secretions and biochemical products (antitoxins, sera and bacterial vaccines). These discussions take up the greater part of the first two lectures. The remaining lecture takes up the matter from the second point of view stated above, namely, the study of the functions of the commonest and simplest materials of the body organism by the experimental methods indicated by the laws of physical chemistry. In this discussion, the author takes up the work of Dr. Howland and his associates on the problem of rickets and tetany, the work on the physico-chemical equilibrium of the blood by Van Slyke, Wu and McLean, the theory of membrane equilibria developed by F. G. Donnan and finally the application of the newer theories of oxidation and reduction to this field of work.

The little volume is both interesting and instructive and deserves to be widely read.—A. G. DUMÉZ.

Chemical Synonyms and Trade Names. Dictionary and Commercial Handbook. By

William Gardner. D. Van Nostrand Company, 8 Warren St., New York City, publishers. Price \$8.00.

This dictionary contains approximately 17,000 definitions and cross-references—since the first edition 2700 definitions have been added. Of necessity the definitions are brief and further information must be sought elsewhere. It serves a very useful purpose for pharmacist, chemist, druggist, retailer, wholesaler and manufacturer. Several examples will probably show the value of the dictionary, rather unusual terms having been selected.

"Abus Ha Heree. An inferior kind of Asafetida in the Bombay market. It is derived from *Ferula alliacea*.

"A. B. C. Liniment. Compound liniment of aconite (*Linimentum aconiti compositum* B. P. C.).

"Abisol. A 40 per cent solution of sodium hydrogen sulphite, NaHSO_2 . A disinfectant and preservative.

"Izal. A distillate from coke residues. It is a proprietary disinfectant.

"Etard's Reagent. Anhydrous chromium oxychloride, an oxidizing agent.

"Salol Camphor. A mixture of 3 parts of salol and 2 parts of camphor. An antiseptic for boils."

It is difficult to review a dictionary; examples answer the purpose better. It should be stated that many of the terms have British application; however, an unfamiliar term is the one most difficult to find and, hence, there is value in that very fact. Considering that sometimes the finding of a name or definition has considerable value to the searcher it is reasonable to assume that this book will repay the purchaser.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics, including Pharmacy and Pharmacology. By Reynold Webb Wilcox, M.A., M.D., L.L., D.C.L. Eleventh edition. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price \$5.00.

Prior editions of this work have been reviewed in these columns. This edition has been revised in accordance with U. S. Pharmacopœia X; because the volume was completed before the appearance of the National Formulary V, the drugs and preparations of that Standard are not discussed. Quite naturally the inclusion would, to that extent, have an added value.

The text is presented in two general divisions—"Materia Medica and Pharmacy" and "Pharmacology and Therapeutics." In the former

attention is given to pharmaceutical processes, preparations, dosage and their prescribing. The therapeutic agents are grouped according to the chemical or physiological divisions to which they belong. The classification of the second division is in accordance with the particular physiological system upon which the various agents principally act and each agent is fully considered in relation to its pharmacological action and therapeutic uses. In these presentations an effort has been made to embody the latest views of authorities and, in greater detail, the results in actual practice by the author, who also acknowledges the efficient assistance of Dr. Henry Hubbard Pelton in the revision of this work.

About 25 pages of the book are given over to a classification and description of preparations, prescription-writing and Latin terms more or less frequently employed; also dosage and equivalents in weights and measures. In an appendix the organic drugs are listed according to their natural orders. While the text is based on an alphabetical arrangement of the drugs the index may be consulted for the diseases in which they are employed. Various methods of administration and application are fully described. The organic extracts, antitoxins and vaccines are given consideration, but nothing is said about insulin. Perhaps the latter does not fit in with the general scheme of the work; however, the statement is made in the preface that "this volume offers to the medical student and to the practitioner, it is believed, a very complete presentation of the resources at our command (*Materia Medica*), how they act (*Pharmacology*), and, finally, how to employ them (*Therapeutics*)."

This revision of "Wilcox" is fully up to the standard of excellence which has contributed to the popularity of previous editions.

The Book of Prescriptions. By E. W. Lucas, C.B.E. and H. B. Stevens, O.B.E. Eleventh edition. Pp. +382. Price \$4.00. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1926.

As stated, this is the eleventh edition of this well- and favorably known book of which 35,000 copies have been printed; all of this speaks for its popularity. The book has been thoroughly revised and is a most useful reference for the prescriptionist as well as practitioner of medicine.

The alphabetical arrangement according to the active constituents serves the doctor best, and with the general index is just as convenient for the pharmacist. While prepared, pri-