

Dr. Doran said the Bureau of Prohibition, through the Department of the Treasury, had requested the Commission to grant new

examinations for the agents, adding that the first one contained many questions which are "far over the heads of the agent."

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Drugs-Map of the World.* BY DR. WOLFGANG HIMMELBAUR AND DR. BERNHARD HOLLINGER. Brochure, 48 pp., with seven maps. Kartographische Anstalt G. Freytag & Berndt in Vienna. M 21.50.

This the latest contribution to pharmacogeography will be welcomed by all students and teachers of our vegetable materia pharmaceutica. To the former it will visualize much of his book knowledge. To the latter it will be a welcome pedagogical tool.

Whereas certain parts of this chapter of pharmacognosy have been worked up thoroughly, others require further exploration. This becomes apparent from a mere glance at the drug map of North America. Most, if not almost all of our medicinal plants would seem to grow east of the Mississippi. True, *Cascara Sagrada* is indicated in the extreme west but near the Mexican border and not near the Canadian border or in Canada.

Even though the English of the text calls for revision of the idiom, the brochure with its maps should find a place in every college or school of pharmacy.

E. K.

*Pharmacognosy and Materia Medica.* For Students in Pharmacy and Practicing Pharmacists. BY HOMER C. WASHBURN, Ph.C., B.S. (in Phar.) AND WALTER H. BLOME, Ph.C., M.S. With a chapter on Vitamines and one on Insulin by Walter Pitz, M.S. 585 pp, 110 illustrations. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1927. Price \$5.00.

The aim of the authors, is to present the important features and facts concerning plant and animal drugs. They therefore give for each drug: its Latin name, the derivation of this name and how it is pronounced; its English name; its synonyms; botanic source; family; part used; description and physical properties; habitat; a discussion, in which a more detailed description is given of the plant, or animal source, an account of how the drug is obtained, varieties, etc., etc.; constituents; properties, use and dose; and finally official preparations. All of the vegetable and animal drugs listed in the U. S. P. X, and the N. F. V as well as a number of the more important non-official drugs which

find frequent use in present-day practice are thus taken up; the letters U. S. P. designating those of the Pharmacopœia, and N. F. those of the National Formulary.

Microscopic characteristics of drugs are not given, the authors being convinced that this work is less essential, and at best should be given in the course in microscopical botany. The book thus conceived, makes a most favorable showing, and criticisms are few. First, the authors will do well to follow the U. S. P., and N. F. in printing the source and family as there given, italicizing generic and specific names and the family, and not in italicizing authorities. This, too, is the general custom. To see the name and authority both printed in the same kind of type is confusing. A little more attention should be given to the biological assays. They should not only be mentioned when a drug is thus assayed, but should be described. The authors are rather derelict in this respect, mentioning the fact that drug is assayed biologically only in the case of *Digitalis* and *Oleum Morrhuæ*. And finally it would seem best to state whose scheme of classification is being followed in the study of the drugs, or why the particular scheme used is followed since most authors now follow Engler-Gilg in their "Syllabus der Pflanzenfamilien." Two appendices are added which are quite worth while and further enhance the value of the work. Appendix I, a Glossary of Medical Terms, and Appendix II, a Glossary of Botanical and Zoological Terms.

CHARLES C. PLITT.

*The Elements of Vegetable Histology.* BY C. W. BALLARD. 2nd Edition. 289 pages, 93 illustrations. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, 1926. Price \$3.25.

This is a rather unusual book, unusual in the number of its defects. It is poorly conceived, and contains quite a number of conflicting or otherwise questionable statements, and some also that are certainly incorrect.

The book, first of all, is poorly conceived; no beginner would start with Chapter I, as there outlined and apply the methods outlined for infiltration, fixation and embedding of the material to be studied. All of this is