

additions considered are the organic arsenicals and quite a number of the synthetic hypnotics and sedatives. Digitalis glucosides have received fuller treatment and a number of unusual toxic substances have received consideration. Thus, referring to the general statements made, it may be informative to mention *materia medica* and other products which in overdose produce toxic effects, as for example: fluorides, iodides, nitrites, salvarsan, propanol, bromural, diogenal, arecoline, johimbine, tutocaine, psicaine, strophanthin, bufotalin, etc.

Certain apparatus and special analytical methods make up the subject matter of the fifth chapter; colorimetric estimation and the usefulness of microsublimation *in vacuo* are given consideration. The sixth chapter has particular interest for pharmacists on account of the assay methods of the German Pharmacopœia for alkaloids, given in full. The Appendix treats of "Meyer-Overton Theory of Narcosis," theory of alcohol narcosis, studies of narcosis, etc., and the investigation of colchicin and colchicein by Windaus and the results of Willstätter's study of the cleavage products of scopolamine.

The behavior of the constituent of poisons and potent drugs during analysis lays the basis for their study and their division into three groups, namely, those that distil with steam from acid aqueous solution are members of Group I, in the next are the non-volatiles in acid aqueous solution and Group III includes the poisonous metals. In the first are phosphorus, chloroform, aniline, alcohols, etc. The second group includes alkaloids, various synthetic compounds, glucosides, bitter principles, etc.

A systematic general procedure for the detection of poisons is given, the methods to be followed and the apparatus which is necessary or helpful.

Except, perhaps, to say that the well and favorably known work has been extended and carefully revised, comment is almost unnecessary; the publishers, also, have upheld their reputation in the production of the book.

*The Theory of Emulsions and Their Technical Treatment.* BY WILLIAM CLAYTON, Hon. Secretary to the British Association Committee on "Colloid Chemistry and Its General and Industrial Applications." F. G. DONNAN, Chairman of the British Association. Committee on "Colloid Chemistry and Its General and Industrial Applications." Second Edition. 300 pages with 42 illustrations. P. Blakiston's

Son & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., Publishers. Price \$4.50.

Professor Donnan, in the "Foreword," refers to the importance of the study of emulsions and emulsification, its theoretical and practical interest. In the industries outside of pharmacy the dairy products constitute a large part of the emulsified products (natural, prepared and manufactured); rubber, if considered as an emulsion, is another item of very great and growing importance. In pharmacy the process is extensively employed for manufacturing a class of preparations known as emulsions, some of the liniments, ointments, etc., and in a related way in the manufacture of certain sprays used as insecticides, other detergents, flotation processes, etc. Deemulsification figures prominently in some of the industrial operations, especially in drilling for petroleum oil—water becomes trapped and to some extent emulsified. Three methods of deemulsification—electrical, chemical and mechanical are employed and described in a general way in this volume.

The bibliography is quite extensive and the list of names and references given include a number who are well known for their contributions to pharmacy; among them, H. Schlenz, L. E. Warren, Charles H. LaWall, J. C. Krantz, Jr., N. E. Gordon, E. V. Kysner, F. C. Vilbrandt, W. G. Crockett, H. E. Oesper and others. Reference is made to a number of papers published in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

While of greatest value for libraries and class rooms it will be noted from the comment that the book has more than reference value for pharmacists.

*A Florentine Diary from 1450 to 1516*, by Luca Landucci. Continued by an Anonymous Writer until 1542, with notes by Iodoco Del Badia. Translated from the Italian by Alice De Rosen Jervis. Publishers, E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. Price \$3.00.

The following review is based largely on one by Samuel C. Chew in the *Baltimore Sun*; the greatest part of it is embodied without change and quoted in this review. This diary was kept by an apothecary, Luca Landucci, of Florence. That he was well known in Italy is testified by contemporary manuscripts: "Landucci was not in public life, and he seems to have had no distinguished connections; but from the doorway of his shop he watched the passing pageant of Florentine life and from his customers he obtained an enormous quan-

tity of gossip, rumor and report; and all this he set down patiently and, considering the nature of his information, with surprising accuracy. He lived in the stirring period of Savonarola's reforming crusade. He witnessed the celebrated bonfire of Vanities, when the citizens followed the dictates of the great Frate and burnt their frivolous possessions.

"He was present in the Piazza when Savonarola and his two chief disciples were put to death. He watched the workmen toiling and struggling as they brought Michelangelo's 'David' from the artist's workshop to its place in the Piazza. He saw the entry into Florence of more than one Pope when the city with lavish expenditure decorated itself for the triumph.

"Life then was colorful and violet. The background of Landucci's own placid existence is a constant succession of wars. The French were in Italy. The Italian cities were constantly squabbling with one another. Plague was seldom completely absent and often raged furiously. The citizens rioted and were sternly suppressed by their governors. Crimes of violence were many, and punishments of terrific cruelty were meted out to criminals who were caught.

"Countless times did this quiet apothecary see condemned men hauled on carts to the place of execution, tortured as they were trundled through the city with red-hot pincers. The rack and thumbscrew were seldom idle. Landucci chronicles also the violences of nature; storms when lightning struck the cupolas and towers of the churches; cold so severe that the Arno froze over; floods so high that the benches in Santa Cree floated out into the square. Generally these events are regarded as portents of coming trouble and interpreted as punishment for the wickedness of the citizens. The record includes also many rumors of miracles and wonders convincingly testified to from many parts of Italy. Some holy statue sweats, the eyes of some saint in a picture move; there are miraculous fires and mysterious visions.

"Such a chronicle does not need to be read consecutively; open it at any page and you will find matter for entertainment, an astonishingly vivid evocation of the brilliant life of a brilliant city four hundred and more years ago. The translator includes the original editor's invaluable notes and has added others on sub-

jects familiar to Italians but upon which the English or American reader may need guidance."

The translator would have added to the convenience of the reader by inserting the years during which the notes were made. For example an entry made *16th December* recites that "Cegino was beheaded in the court of the *Capitano*, for the same crime of having plotted for the Medici." The next note is dated *6th January*—no year given, and as the year of the preceding entry is not stated the dates must be retraced.

The youth, on October 15, 1450, about 14 years of age, went to learn book-keeping from a master called Callandra; he adds "Praise God! I succeeded." On 1st January, 1452, he entered the shop of the apothecary Francesco, at the sign of the *Scala*, in the *Mercato Vecchio*. He continued in this shop for 10 years. There are quite a number of references to his experiences and investments. The entries are most interesting and many have historical value.

The Apothecaries' Guild of which he was a member regulated the hours during which the shops were to be kept open. Evidently, the apothecaries made candles, for the Guild decided that "we apothecaries could no longer make candles at two denari."

An entry of May 26, 1471, stated that he bought some of the first sugar that came to Florence from Madeira.

A note of the Diary explains the time use. The Translation states—"They then began to count from *eight o'clock p.m.*, that is, the present eight o'clock was called 24; and the present nine o'clock was called one o'clock, ten o'clock was two o'clock, etc. The idea was to count the fresh day from the hour of the sun going down on the last one."

*Schimmel & Co. Report.*—The annual report on essential oils and synthetic perfumes, published by Schimmel & Co., Miltitz, Germany, has been received in the United States. Fritzsche Brothers, Inc., New York City, is agent in the United States and Canada. The report consists of a bound illustrated volume of 248 pages.

*Neue Arzneimittel, Spezialitäten und Geheimmittel.*—Supplement of *Apotheker-Zeitung*, covering the period of April to September 1927, of preparations indicated, appearing in the publication named in numbers intervening between dates given.