

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Photometric Chemical Analysis*. Volume 1, Colorimetry. By JOHN H. YOE, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, University of Virginia. 771 pages. 72 figures. John Wiley & Sons, New York. Price, cloth, \$8.50.

This comprehensive volume represents the first extensive treatment of this useful branch of applied analytical chemistry. Color, as a means of making quantitative determinations, has long been in favor where speed and sensitivity were important considerations. While perhaps not as precise as gravimetric methods, it is sufficiently so to warrant its use in routine technical analysis. During the past quarter century numerous new colorimetric methods have been devised, and their sensitivity and accuracy increased. All of this material has been well correlated by the author.

The book is divided into five parts. *Part I* is a general treatment of methods, apparatus, calculations, calibration and correction curves, errors, the effects of colloids, and lastly specific directions for the use and care of a precision colorimeter. Some idea of the scope of the book can be obtained from the fact that some twenty colorimetric instruments are described in fair detail. The author might have included a description of the Buerker Colorimeter, although he does cite it in the bibliography, since it is one of the few instruments which eliminates the influence of the diluent by having the layers of liquid viewed, of constant depth throughout the determination. Tintometers and spectrophotometers are purposely omitted by the author, although they might with advantage have been included. Data concerning the latter type of instrument and its applications is widely scattered in the literature, and a future edition of this book would be well benefited by a compilation of this material.

*Part II* describes the determination of the inorganic elements and ions, including some of the less common ones. The method of treatment is commendable. A brief outline of the determination is followed by the list of reagents and their preparation, the details of the procedure, and valuable notes which include limitations, errors, sensitivity and precision wherever known. The original literature is cited in each instance. *Part II* also includes a single chapter on the determination of  $p_{\text{H}}$ , which cannot of course do complete justice to a subject to which several texts have been entirely devoted. It does, however, give a

good summary of this subject. The author should have included the preparation of  $p_{\text{H}}$  standards rather than advocate their purchase.

*Part III* deals with organic determinations, including such medicinals as adrenalin, benzaldehyde, citral, formaldehyde, phenol, salicylic acid, tannin and vanillin. Undoubtedly a number of the methods included in *Parts II and III* need further investigation and perhaps some "weeding out," and it is the hope of the author that his readers will cooperate with him in this respect.

*Part IV* devotes some 90 pages to a thorough treatment of the colorimetric determinations of the chemical constituents of the blood and urine.

*Part V*, one of the outstanding features of the book, is an extensive bibliography of 184 pages. The references are listed under some 200 substances, and are especially valuable because of the short descriptions which most of them contain. An author index is also included.

The editing has been carried out in the characteristic fine style of the publishers. A few typographical errors have crept in; *viz.*—the formulas for borax on page 136, and for dimethyl glyoxime on page 248 are incorrect.

Volume I is to be followed shortly by the publication of a second volume, Nephelometry, and when completed, this treatise, both as manual and reference work, should do much toward bringing this subject into greater vogue among analysts not yet familiar with its advantages.

A. TAUB.

*Troubles We Don't Talk About*. By J. F. MONTAGUE, M.D. J. B. Lippincott Co., Publishers. Price \$2.00.

This book is written for the information and guidance of the public and deals with afflictions of the rectum such as hemorrhoids, fissure, fistula, stricture, loss of bowel control and cancer. A short description of each ailment is given in terms which are readily understood by the layman.

Emphasis is laid upon the seriousness of rectal troubles and those who "suffer in silence" are urged to discard their false modesty and seek immediate examination by a competent rectal specialist. The author states that practically all operations can be performed without the use of a general anæsthetic, without pain and with little or no loss of time on the part of the patient.