

## 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.

General practitioners who prescribe ointments and suppositories, after little or no examination, are scored. A thorough examination by a specialist, who is equipped with special instruments for this work and who has made a study of these conditions, is advocated.

The author deprecates the use of suppositories and ointments because they do not cure, but cause temporary relief and in this way give the patient a false feeling of security, while the condition grows steadily worse. Sciatica, lumbago, stomach trouble and other ailments are said to have disappeared, after troubles of the rectum have been cured. Laxatives are discussed. Some are recommended, others are condemned.

This book is both interesting and informative. Those who "suffer in silence" should not fail to read it. It will impress them with the seriousness of neglect and the folly of self-medication. Furthermore, it commends itself to careful reading by the pharmacist. Its teachings will undoubtedly convince him that his greatest service lies in advising such cases to consult competent medical authorities, rather than use preparations which are advertised so widely for the treatment of these conditions.

W. G. CROCKETT.

*Anthelmintics and Their Uses in Medical and Veterinary Practice.* By R. N. CHOPRA, M.A., M.D. (Cantab), Professor of Pharmacology, Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and Asa C. Chandler, M.Sc., Ph.D., Professor of Biology Rice Institute, Houston, Texas. Pages 291. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1928. Price \$5.00.

Contributions of a most useful and practical type have been made to Medical, Veterinary and Pharmacological literature in this monograph. The authors have presented the subject matter under three main headings.

*Section I.*—General Consideration.

*Section II.*—Anthelmintics Acting on Parasites in the Gut.

*Section III.*—Anthelmintic Used Against Somatic Parasitic Infection.

They have collected into one volume the widely scattered data on a subject which is at once of immense importance to any one interested in helminthology. The data are given in a concise and sufficiently detailed manner to be useful not only as a reference book, but equally in daily routine practice.

The style of presentation is particularly happy, in that the detailed knowledge so neces-

sary to successful practice in this field of therapy is supplemented by a sufficient amount of historical data to add zest to the volume, making it a most readable monograph.

A complete bibliography of more than 500 references is a very useful addition to the book. The volume should have a popular appeal to physicians, veterinarians, research workers and pharmacologists.

WM. B. P.

*Recent Advances in Biochemistry.* By John Pryde, 2nd edition. 379 pages. Price, \$3.50. Publishers, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Phila. This is a revision of the original edition which was published in 1926. That the original edition was well received is evident from the fact that it has already been completely sold out. The arrangement of material in the new edition does not differ materially from that in the original edition except that a new chapter, Chapter IV, has been added dealing with the recent work of Harrington on the chemistry of thyroxine and of Raper and his associates on the formation of melanin from tyrosine through the action of the enzyme tyrosinase. Harrington's method for preparing thyroxine from the thyroid gland and the experimental evidence by which he proved its structure are given in considerable detail. A brief outline of its methods of synthesis is also given. Chapters I, II, III, VI, VIII and XI, dealing with protein catabolism; colloids and the physical chemistry of proteins, nucleo-proteins, fats; sulfur biochemistry; and the chemical basis of specific immunological reactions, have been but very slightly altered. The newer work of Haworth, Hirst and their co-workers on the structure of normal and reactive sugars have been added to the chapter on carbohydrates, also the more recent work on the rôle of insulin in carbohydrate metabolism. The chapters on the biochemistry of phosphorus, vitamins, hemoglobin and on chemotherapy have been more or less changed so as to bring them into agreement with the more recent work on the subjects, e. g., vitamin B is divided into B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>, B<sub>1</sub> being the anti-neuritic vitamin and B<sub>2</sub> the pellagra-preventing and growth-promoting vitamin, the recent evidence in favor of this differentiation is fully discussed as well as the evidence supporting the possibility that ergosterol is the precursor of vitamin D, the anti-rachitic vitamin.—J. C. FORBES.

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