

for the Activity of Medicinal and Other Charcoals" and another paper on "A Comparison of the Adsorptive Power of Medicinal Charcoals," by Harry Brindle; "Mercury Ointment" by J. H. Franklin; "Compound Tincture of Benzoin," by T. Tusting Cocking and by the same author, "The Testing of Barium Sulphate for X-Ray Purposes;" "Iron and Ammonium Citrate of Commerce: Its Composition and Behavior in Certain Solutions," by G. J. W. Ferrey; "The Determination of Iodine in Organic Combination, Especially in Thyroid Gland," by Wilfred Smith; "The Melting Point of Cocaine Hydrochloride," by the same author; "The Use of Iron Reagents in the Detection and Differentiation of Phenols," by Alan H. Ware; "Apiol" by J. F. Walmsley; "Infusion of Senega," by J. F. Liverseege; several papers on "Malt Extracts and Oil Emulsions," by J. M. Jones and Norman Evers.

The British Pharmaceutical Society held a number of interesting discussions. W. J. Beardsley took as his subject "The Training of Apprentices in Wholesale Houses." John Keall discussed "The Value of the Services of Pharmacists on Public Bodies." E. Daville Peck opened a discussion on "What Are the Functions for Which Pharmacists Should Be Trained and Qualified," under the following subdivisions—"The Pharmacist in Retail Business," "The Hospital Pharmacist," "Wholesale Pharmacists." In closing his presentation Mr. Peck said "This is an age of specialization, and we have now reached a stage when we must contemplate this specialization, with alternative training and examination followed by the award of special diplomas. The student at the outset of his career must decide for which of the one or other branches into which the calling is being divided he shall equip himself, knowing full well that once he has made his choice he should abide by it. He will then put himself on the straight road for the training and qualification which will enable him to perform the functions of that class of pharmacy which he has chosen for his life's work. This early specialization will, I claim, make for economy in point of time—efficiency in the work to be undertaken and ultimate satisfaction in the achievement of success."

U. S. CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR JUNIOR PHARMACOLOGIST.

An examination to fill vacancies in the U. S. Public Health Service for duty in

Washington, D. C., and elsewhere, will be held. Applications must be on file not later than September 4th. The duties are to assist in the study of pharmacological action of drugs and to act as research assistant in pharmacology, to conduct bio-assays upon U. S. P. drugs and glandular products and to assist in the development of these assays. Competition will be rated on chemistry, pharmacy, physiology and a thesis handed to the examiner on the day of the examination. Information may be obtained from the U. S. Civil Service Commission at Washington or at the Post Office or Custom House of any city.

MAILING POISONS.

We are indebted to Dr. Lyman F. Kebler for the following relating to an item in the July JOURNAL, page 721, which has appeared previously in other publications. Dr. Kebler writes: "The existing law allows the shipment of poisonous drugs through the mails to licensed physicians, surgeons, dentists, pharmacists, druggists and veterinarians, when addressed to such, provided that the container of the article mailed is plainly labeled to show its contents, is marked "poison" and bears a label or superscription of the manufacturer thereof. This information appears in Section 460 of *Postal Laws and Regulations, 1924.*"

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE REGISTRATION OF PROPRIETARY MEDICINES IN PORTO RICO.

Revised sanitary rules and regulations affecting the registration of patent and proprietary medicines, issued as Administrative Bulletin No. 319, were approved by the Porto Rican Board of Health on April 3rd and by the Executive Council on April 24th, and became effective May 4, 1928. Sanitary rules and regulations No. 76, in effect prior to May 4th, were repealed from that date.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A Laboratory Manual of Organic Chemistry for Students of the Medical Sciences, Hugh C. Muldoon, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price \$1.25.

This manual is intended for medical and pharmaceutical students. Consequently the substances directed to be produced in nearly all of the experiments and many of the materials intended to be worked with are such as are employed in medicine. Some exceptions are aniline, benzene, nitro-benzene and acetone,

which are used as reagents. In following this manual, therefore, the student will become familiar with many of the medicaments which he will later prescribe or dispense. The directions, cautions and descriptions of laboratory technic are intended for beginners and elementary students. They are very complete and in general are not too prolix or imperative for beginners. While intended for students of organic chemistry its technic will prove of value to any novice in general chemistry. In other respects this manual does not differ materially from the numerous books already in the field.—L. E. WARREN.

Textbook of Organic Chemistry, pages 901 VI. By J. S. CHAMBERLAIN, Ph.D. Second Edition, 1928, Professor of Organic Chemistry, Mass. Agricultural College. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Philadelphia. Price, \$4.00.

The necessity of a second edition of Professor Chamberlain's book justly indicates the appreciation accorded to the original work. Despite the fact that the volume consists of almost a thousand pages, the greater part of the subject matter is but superficially treated which circumstance is, however, compensated for by the multitude of diversified but relevant data included. This is justified to a limited degree by the author's intention—as stated in the Preface—to produce a work that would at the same time serve as a source text for instructors.

Correlation of certain theoretical principles with modern industrial practice has in most cases received but scant treatment thereby decreasing the value of the book as a reference for the advanced student and professional chemist.

Brief historical and statistical data pertaining to production and consumption are included in many of the topics treated, among which may be noted some of the most recent and contemporary developments in Organic Chemistry, e. g., *Cracking Processes*, *Synthetic Motor Fuels*, *Anti-Knock Preparations*, etc., as mentioned under Petroleum. A typographical error appears in a footnote on page 159, name for name.

Heroin (diacetyl-morphine), being practically obsolete from a medical standpoint, is treated under the excellent chapter on Alkaloids, but legal prohibition of the particular alkaloid is not mentioned. Glycerin (page 198) is described as being non-irritant, which statement should be properly qualified; on page 590, Phenacetin is described as an "important antiseptic"

which is not the case. Under Phenol, page 572, the only antidotes specified are lime and chalk, alcohol not being mentioned, despite its efficacy as previously recommended through the researches of Phelps, Fraser and others, as attested to in works on therapeutics.

On page 811 we note the therapeutic comparison of Morphine with Codeine, but the student is not apprised of the fact that the latter alkaloid is not habit-forming.

The two major divisions of the book, namely the "Aliphatic Series" and the "Cyclic Compounds," occupy pages 1-423 and pages 427-829, respectively, each chapter being terminated by a list of study questions and problems; the text proper is concluded by an excellent bibliography listing 75 standard works dealing with Organic Chemistry and its applications.

Appendices I and II occupy pages 849-870 of which the first part consists of descriptions of manipulative technic under the head "Separation, Purification, Identification, Analysis and Determination of Molecular Weights of Organic Compounds." This portion of the book could be considerably enhanced by the inclusion of half-tones or cuts of apparatus as under the topics, "Melting Point and Boiling Point Determinations," "Nitrogen by Kjeldahl," "Carbon and Hydrogen by Combustion," etc.

On page 835 the necessity of correction factors is stressed as applied to melting point and boiling point determinations, but formulas or directions are not given; on page 839 the author states that the "Kjeldahl method has great advantages as to time required," which opinion takes no cognizance of the hours lost in the course of digestion preliminary to the final titration of N as NH_3 .

Appendix II is devoted to 432 bibliographic references to laboratory preparations designated by number throughout the text. Analytical tests described under "Oils and Fats," "Sugars," etc., might, with advantage, be incorporated with Appendix I and a more adequate description of polariscopic methods would be appropriate. The index consists of 30 pages and could be better arranged if divided into two parts, Authors and Subjects.

The volume as a whole is an excellent work, and its wealth of readily accessible material justifies its selection as a text as well as a convenient reference for the chemist.

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