

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Schmelzpunktabelle der organischen Verbindungen—"Table of Melting Points of Organic Compounds." By ASAHINA, NAKAO, TSUKAMOTO AND NAKHASHI; Publishers, Nakodo, Tokyo and Kioto, Japan. 220 pages. Price 5 yen, 1928.

This reference book is intended for pharmacists, chemists and biologists. It contains 5808 organic compounds, arranged according to their melting points, ranging from 10° to 419° C. Each compound has five columns: (1) Melting Point, (2) Remarks, (3) Name, (4) Formula and (5) Literature. Under "Remarks," the boiling points of the compounds are often given. The "Literature" is limited to 6 standard textbooks. In each page the limit of melting points of the compounds contained in that page appears on the top, and the page number at the bottom. The book can be used not only by the Orientals but also by the Occidentals, since the preface only is in Japanese. The text is in German, but understandable to a chemist of any nationality. The index of compounds at the end of the book, covering 46 pages, is also a helpful feature. The book is similar to "Kempf's Organische Verbindungen nach Schmelzpunkten," published by Friedr. Vieweg and Son, Braunschweig, Germany.—K. K. C.

Pharmazeutische Synonyma, Brieger. Compiled by DR. RICHARD BRIEGER, Science Editor of the *Pharmazeutische Zeitung*. Published by Julius Springer, Linkstrasse, 23-24, Berlin, Germany. Price R. M. 16.

Dr. Brieger has rendered a distinct service by the publication of this book; however, the foundation laid lends itself to enlargement in succeeding editions. Recently the writer was asked for the composition of "Nine Oils," referred to by Dickens and what is meant by "black stone," said to be used as a remedial agent in the United States. The former was known to the writer under other names; there is a question relative to what is meant by the latter term. We do not find "madstone" given in the book being reviewed. The late Dr. A. B. Lyons compiled almost a complete list of plant names, and Dr. Brieger, as stated, has laid a valuable foundation, which lends itself to enlargement, as the author states, in substance, in the *foreword*. He has attempted to give, and has succeeded in a large degree in giving to pharmacists a book that serves a useful purpose. The list of German

synonyms is more complete than those of the other languages—English, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch. Difficulties obtain in preparing a book of this kind and the author cites several examples, only one of them will be referred to, *Unguentum Hydrargyri album*; synonyms—"Ungentum Werhofii," "U. Werlhofii," "U. Walthofii." Possibly by search the origin may be discovered, but the author has placed limitations on his work, seeking to give the pharmacist the synonyms as he has found them, without going into the history. Page 2 gives 122 names and there are 276 pages in the book; possibly the number of items does not represent an average page, but if 100 is a better average then the titles listed would exceed 27,000.

Most every pharmacist who has practiced his profession for a decennium or two would have, at some time or other, given the price of the book to know the definition of an unfamiliar synonym.

Actions and Uses of the Salicylates and Cinchophen. By PROF. P. J. HANZLIK, Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacology. The Williams & Wilkins Company, publishers. Price \$3.50. 6 x 9. 184 pages, cloth.

The book named presents not only a review, but considers the pharmacological actions of the drugs indicated by the title. At the very outset the reviewer is impressed with the thoroughness of the author; the extent of the study is indicated by 658 references used in the text and about 100 others not used, which make the bibliography quite complete.

The subject matter is presented in 21 chapters; all of them have interest and value for the pharmacist; the second considers chemical and physical properties and it is indeed remarkable to have so much information on the subject in condensed form. The chapter on pharmacology and that on clinical reports are comprehensive records of studies and the many references concern particularly the physician and laboratorian; pharmacists will find the closing chapters, relating to toxicology, dosage and methods of administration very helpful in their practice. The monograph is deserving of commendation and a place in the pharmacist's library; the publishers have given deserved attention to the preparation of a volume by a painstaking research worker.