

these substances, in common with the alcohols, act on the central nervous system and are, broadly speaking, "narcotic," using the term in Lillie's sense, we certainly cannot logically include them in a series of popular lectures on narcotics and intoxicants. Under local anesthetics, cocaine is considered at length and the pharmaceutical and historical treatment of it is excellent. The pharmacological treatment, however, is very superficial. Chapter IX is devoted to synthetic local anesthetics which certainly do not fall within the scope of the book as expressed in its title. This chapter is followed by another on sedatives and hypnotics, giving a list of old and newer sleep-producing drugs, chloral, luminal, propional, dial, urethane, sulphonal and trional. The rest of the book, with the exception of a chapter which mixes illogically a consideration of various drugs, hashish, hyoscyamine, atropine and scopolamine, is devoted, for the most part, to the true narcotics, opium and its derivatives. The author gives an interesting historical sketch on opium, discusses briefly the chemistry of its principal alkaloids and, very inadequately, considering the importance of the subject, their pharmacodynamics. A greater proportion of space is devoted to the consideration of morphinism and heroinism. Some excerpts are appended from the narcotic laws on the subject and the concluding sentence of the book is, "*Mens sana in corpore sano.*" The lack of sufficient literary references is deplorable but is to be explained by the fact that these were originally a series of popular lectures.

A perusal of this little book leads us to the following conclusions: It is of the greatest interest in regard to its historical contents. It is useful to the pharmacist and general public from the point of view of statistics. It is inadequate and not up-to-date in respect to its pharmacological content.—D. I. M.

Chemical Dictionary. Based on recent chemical literature, containing the words generally used in chemistry, and many of the terms employed in the related sciences of physics, astrophysics, mineralogy, pharmacy and biology, with their pronunciations. By INGO W. D. HACKH, professor of Chemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons. Author of "Chemical Reactions and Their Equations." Publishers, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Inc., 1012 Walnut St. Philadelphia. Large octavo, 790 pages, 232 illustrations and over 100 tables. Fabricoid, \$10.00.

Dr. Hackh has contributed a number of articles to the JOURNAL, most of them dealing with structure-symbols of organic compounds; we refer to the JOURNAL for 1920, 1921 and 1924.

The author has been successful in the preparation of a useful work; he has defined not only words used in chemistry but has included terms of related sciences and a helpful key to the pronunciation of words of foreign origin, as well as of words in the pronunciation of which there is great variance. There are brief biographic sketches and reproductions of portraits of many prominent scientists. In a comprehensive work, such as this, errors are bound to creep in and the author's viewpoints naturally differ in some instances from those who make use of the *Dictionary*. Well and favorably known scientists have aided the author and he gives them due credit and also credits standard works which have been consulted in the preparation of the *Dictionary*.

The great progress of chemistry in recent years and its specialization has emphasized the need for a dictionary which records the science in terms of modern concepts. Theories, laws and rules of chemistry are given; elements compounds, drugs, minerals, vegetable and animal products are defined and described.

The book contains a number of original charts and diagrams of practical value. The author, who devoted a number of years of thoughtful study has, as stated, been eminently successful in completing a helpful publication. We commend the dictionary for the library of the pharmacist as well as the chemist; there is no question in the writer's mind about that; however, the effort to make the work a comprehensive reference brings it to the attention of those who look for other information than that which is strictly of a chemical nature. The following notes are offered in a helpful spirit. The U. S. Pharmacopœia and National Formulary are not rigidly followed in terms and definitions; the source of an official drug is not always correctly given and there is some lack of uniformity in capitalization. It is impossible to sketch all chemists of note, but Caventou should not have been omitted. Scheele is named as noted chemist; he was an apothecary during all the years of his active life; quite a number of the chemists sketched were pharmacists, but in glancing over the pages we failed to note the mention of pharmacists. Tincture is defined as "a medicated liquid made by extraction of a drug

which is generally weaker in strength than a fluidextract." It would have been an easy matter to have used the definition of the Pharmacopœia or National Formulary. Doubtless, pharmacists will consult the *Dictionary*, therefore, the definitions of drugs and preparations of them should, as they do in most instances, conform with the standards. The latter references may be of secondary importance in a *chemical dictionary*, but the writer knows the author's desire is to have his work authentic, and the references are made for that purpose. Authors and historians should bear in mind that pharmacists, because of their training and education, may have done outstanding work in some of the sciences underlying pharmacy, but they retain their title as pharmacists and should be so accredited even though in the course of their activities they gained distinction in chemistry, biology, botany, pharmacognosy or other science.

As before stated, the *Dictionary* deserves commendation and will be found a very useful addition to the library; there is much information contained which obviates the necessity of search in a number of volumes. The publishers have prepared an informative circular which may be obtained by addressing them.

The Medical Museum, Based on a New System of Visual Teaching, by S. H. DAUKES, Director, The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, size 10" x 7", pages 172. (The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., Endsleigh Court, 33, Gordon Street, London, W.C.1, England.)

This book is not merely a theoretical contribution to the improvement of museums in general and medical museums in particular but a description of practical achievement based upon theory and vision.

The author is precise, clear, and has obviously devoted much study, skill and care to a subject on which this book stamps him as an expert. Having in the first chapter discussed the functions of a medical museum and made a plea for reform and for a wider outlook, Dr. Daukes proceeds in subsequent chapters to describe and discuss the details of the new system of visual teaching on which the ideal medical museum is based.

This is followed by appendices dealing with the application and development of the system, with types of buildings, walls, screens, cases, labels, illustrations and technical de-

tails of preserving and mounting specimens. In conclusion there is a very valuable and complete bibliography of technical museum publications and 45 whole-page illustrations of screens, sections and specimens which are most helpful as providing practical evidence of the soundness and practicability of this new system of visual teaching.

The letterpress is in large, easily-read type, and the typography gives an air of distinction to the publication which is further enhanced by the technical perfection of the photographs of difficult subjects and the high quality of the halftone reproductions.

Everyone interested in museums, whether in regard to construction, development, control or use, should read and study this book. Having done so there will be a natural desire to see its methods developed in actual practice, which, fortunately, is possible for all those who can visit The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, 33 Gordon Street, London, England, of which Dr. Daukes is Director. Dr. H. S. Wellcome has been a member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for more than 50 years.

Diabetic Manual for Patients, a Non-official Guide for the Person Suffering with Diabetes, by DR. HENRY J. JOHN, Director of the Diabetic Department of Laboratories of the Cleveland Clinic. Publishers, C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, Mo. Price \$2.00.

LEGAL, NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS.

Narcotic regulations require that a narcotic prescription must be dated as of and signed on the day when issued and must bear the full name and address of the patient and the name, address and registry number of the practitioner. The prescription should be written with ink or indelible pencil or typewritten. If typewritten, it should be signed by the practitioner. The foregoing applies to all prescriptions for narcotic drugs and preparations not exempt under Section 6 of the Harrison Narcotic Act. A prescription for taxable narcotic drugs cannot legally be refilled. The partial fillings of a narcotic prescription, as a general rule, is unlawful. Orders from physicians over the telephone for narcotic drugs cannot be filled by retail druggists except in emergencies and even then the employee of the druggist must be supplied with a properly prepared prescription before delivery is made to the patient.