

tended as a textbook to be used in teaching the mathematics of pharmacy. The author has used the text in class room instruction; that arrangement is followed in the book. In the first chapters consideration is given to Prescription Forms, including a discussion, use and values of the different systems of weights and measures; succeeding chapters deal with percentage and dosage; three divisions are devoted to specific gravity; two relate to the mathematics of dispensing and manufacturing in quantity. Solution is given consideration in several of the chapters, and application is made of dilution, chemical combination, effect of temperature, and methods for making calculations. The last chapters of the book relate to problems that come up in business, figuring discounts, profit, loss, etc.

While, as stated, the book is intended for the class room, in making pharmacy students and nurses acquainted with applied mathematics in their practice, it should find use in the drug store. The importance of mathematics cannot be too strongly impressed; the misplacement of a decimal point may be the cause of death, permanent injury, and seriously affect the life of the individual who makes the mistake.

A Treatise on Microscopic Pharmacognosy.
By WILLIAM MANSFIELD, A.M. Phar.D., Ph.G., Albany, N. Y. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York.

The plan of this book is very similar to Dean Mansfield's previous publication "Histology of Medicinal Plants;" *i. e.*, a series of plates with a page of accompanying explanation of the plates. This type of textbook is not entirely novel, but is decidedly unusual among texts. Professor Mansfield used much the same idea in his publication of several years ago "Squibb's Atlas of Pharmacognosy," in which he prepared a series of photographs of vegetable drugs, accompanying each plate with a page of description of the drug.

While this style of textbook is novel, yet it may be very practicable, provided that sufficient oral instruction be given in the teaching. It is very evident that in this method of instruction, the text does not present anything in the way of theory, tabulation, correlation, nor any matter pertaining to the subject outside of what can be presented in the drawing.

Pharmacognosy, in its broader sense at least, embraces not only the actual structure of the drug, but a study of its constituents, its purity,

quality and strength, its adulterants and its association and correlation with other drugs. Many of these points can be dealt with microscopically. Therefore, it may be said that a text which covers only the microscopic structure of the drug is not as comprehensive as a text on microscopic pharmacognosy might be made.

The drawings are well made and accurate and the descriptive text, while short and condensed, is clear and accurate. It is a matter worthy of note that American textbooks on pharmacognosy, as a whole, do not present the exquisite accuracy of line and perspective in their drawings so often seen in German works on this subject. It is true that this beautiful drawing takes a great deal of time, not only in the actual drawing itself, but in the preparation of the mounts and in the study of these mounts under the microscope. After years of study of the work done by Tschirch and by Moeller I must admit that I have never found an inaccuracy in a drawing or description of their work. This, perhaps, I cannot say of any American author. Whether this extreme accuracy and beauty of the drawing is worth while for textbooks is a question. Perhaps the idea to be conveyed is just as well conveyed by work that has not cost quite so much in time and energy and skill. E. N. GATHERCOAL.

The Condensed Chemical Dictionary. Compiled and edited by the editorial staff of the Chemical Engineering Catalog; Second Edition, completely revised and enlarged under supervision of Thomas Gregory, Editor, and Isabelle M. Welch, Assistant Editor. Published by the Chemical Catalog Company Inc., New York. Price \$10.00.

The Dictionary has as a purpose the supplying of information to those whose needs are for brief definitions of chemicals and chemical products. The extent of these terms may be indicated in stating that there are nearly five hundred 2-column pages, of about 80 lines to the column. The care exercised in presenting authentic information is shown by acknowledgments of coöperation of a very large number of chemists and of laboratories, and much of this information is not available in literature; added information was obtained from the references, books and other publications, the listing of which requires four pages. These facts are mentioned to give an idea of the comprehensiveness of the Dictionary. The fact that more than 16,000 copies of the