

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Memoranda of Toxicology. By MAX TRUMPER, B.S., A.M., Ph.D. Consulting Clinical Chemist and Toxicologist, in charge of the Psycho-Biochemistry Laboratory, Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania. 214 + pages about 4½" x 6". Publishers P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Inc., Philadelphia. Price \$1.50.

This book is partly based on "Tanner's Memoranda of Poisons." The contents are divided into four parts and an appendix has been added in which treatment of insect bites and first aid methods are given consideration. The chapters of Part I deal with general toxicology and corrosives; those following consider simple irritants, specific irritant poisons and neurotic poisons.

The definition for a "poison" is quite as variable as the term "antidote." The former finds application to a substance or (perhaps) a means which produces functional disturbance that imperils health or life; an antidote corrects the disturbance by neutralizing the action of the poison, protecting the organs against injurious effects, or otherwise; strychnine and sugar may be antidotes or poisons.

Chapter I gives consideration to the definition and mode of action of poisons and in the succeeding nine chapters diagnosis, detection and legal phases are discussed. The next fourteen chapters deal with irritant poisons and the concluding chapters treat of narcotic poisons, in which are included narcotics, anaesthetics, depressants and asphyxiants. The discussions in the book are brief but give needed information for most cases of poisoning; reasoning and good judgment are essential for successful treatment. Each case presents individual phases which must be considered by the doctor and, likewise, the poison and the antidote or treatment, so that the dangers brought about by the poison will not be increased; hence, toxicology presents interesting studies for both physician and pharmacist.

The book is a handy volume for the library of the physician and pharmacist; the information contained has value for others who are brought in contact with poisoning cases; the suggestions serve a useful purpose in emergencies, but the services of a physician should promptly be called for.

CANADIAN FORMULARY.

A "Canadian Formulary" is contemplated by

the Canadian drug and medical groups. Two committees have been provided for; one for editing the book and the other for financing the publication.

The undertaking is receiving serious consideration and it is expected that work on the Formulary will soon be under way, under the encouragement of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. It has been stated that the book should be for physicians and therefore contain such formulas as represent thoughtful and useful preparations that they will use. The arrangement should be so complete as to cover the whole realm of types of medication, *i. e.*, lotions, ointments, sprays, liniments, etc. That they must be attractive enough so that they will be prescribed by the physicians; the formulas should be brought to their attention by pharmacists and the medical press. The book should serve as a guide so that preparations therein, wherever dispensed, will be uniform, not only in composition but in color and flavor.

A long list of drugs has been suggested for inclusion.

BOUND VOLUME OF RESEARCH BULLETINS.

A stoutly bound volume of its research bulletins and case studies has been issued to members by the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. The book contains seventeen bulletins and fifty-four case studies.

A useful alphabetical index at the end of the volume shows where various individual facts and problems discussed in the text may be found.

Surgeon General Ireland's statutory retirement occurs May 1931; his term of office ends October 30th, but it may be that he will be reappointed to office until "age retirement." He served as Surgeon General during the very trying period of the war with signal success, and he has given twelve years of service in that capacity.

Dr. James J. Durrett has accepted the position of State Health Officer of Alabama and will shortly resign as chief of the office of drug control in the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture. He will retain his present duties until about the middle of April. No successor has yet been selected.

SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE AND STYLE.*

The close connection of the Medical Research Council (British) with the various bodies concerned in the preparation of the next British Pharmacopœia lends additional importance to a pamphlet, issued by its publications' department (though not on sale to the public), entitled "Notes upon the Preparation of Reports for Publication." It has been said—perhaps with less regard for truth than for the launching of an epigram—that men of science are the only people who have anything worth saying and the only people who do not know how to say it. However that may be, writers of scientific monographs may with advantage make themselves acquainted with the contents of the practical notes supplied by the Council. Not every worker in the many fields of science, for instance, uses, or is likely to use, "g." as the abbreviation for gram (which, by the way, the Council spells "gramme"), or converts a diphthong in words of Latin origin into two separate letters. Section 10 of the pamphlet, headed "Chemical Nomenclature," may be quoted almost in its entirety:

The acid salts of acids containing more than one replaceable hydrogen atom should be described by naming the actual cations which they contain: *e. g.*, NaHSO₄, sodium hydrogen sulphate (not acid sodium sulphate). . . .

Substances containing basic groups should always have names terminating in *ine*: *e. g.*, aniline, not anilin; choline, not cholin; creatine. . . .

The ending in *is* is restricted to certain neutral compounds, *vis.*: carbohydrates, glycerides, lipins, glucosides, and proteins: *e. g.*, dextrin, palmitin, lecithin, amygdalin, albumin.

Most of the amino-acids derived from proteins (not proteids) follow this rule: *e. g.*, leucine, glycine (not glyco^ccoll), histidine, proline, thyroxine. The amino-acid tryptophan should not be spelled with a terminal *e*, the ending *ane* being reserved for saturated hydrocarbons, *e. g.*, methane, propane.

All hydroxyl derivatives of hydrocarbons (alcohols) should have names ending in *ol*: *e. g.*, glycerol (not glycerine), mannitol (not mannite), dulcitol (not dulcite), erythritol (not erythrite), cholesterol (not cholesterin), resorcinol (not resorcin).

The names of compounds which are not alcohols but have been given trivial names, com-

monly used, ending in *ol*, should be spelled with a terminal "e:" *e. g.*, anisole, indole, scatole.

The term lipin (not lipoid) should be used to designate the fatty substances containing either nitrogen or nitrogen and phosphorus (lecithin, kephalin, phrenosin, kersin, etc.). "Lipoid" (or better "lipodal") may be used adjectivally.

That which is justifiable on etymological or other grounds may not always be expedient; and, as the writ of the Council does not run on the Continent, we are inclined to think that it would be preferable if a certain latitude was allowed until questions of scientific nomenclature are agreed on internationally. On the question of style, the pamphlet, with the best of intentions, is a thought too drastic to fit the facts of the case.

We read: "It is a common experience of the Council that in revision of manuscripts submitted to them a 10 to 20 per cent reduction in length can be readily effected by attention to arrangement and by avoiding redundant or reduplicated sentences." Appendix I of the pamphlet consists of words or phrases with "shorter and better equivalents," arranged in parallel columns. Many of the alternatives recommended are admirable, but some are almost pedantic. To make the bald suggestion that "often" should be used in place of "frequently," for example, is to overlook the common circumstance that any one word may easily become overused in the course of even a short paper. Again, to give "much" or "significant" as substitutes for "considerable" is less than adequate—incidentally, "significant" contains only one letter less than "considerable"—for "considerable" is sometimes a concise word for "worthy, in the circumstances, of consideration" and sometimes a way of expressing "standing on a high (or very high), but not quite the highest, level." Even the pamphlet itself is not invariably impeccable in matters of style: thus, in the paragraphs we have just quoted, the placing of "," ":", and ":" before "*e. g.*" is apparently not governed by any principle. Contributors to the Medical Research Council's series of reports will, of course, find the guidance of these twenty-two pages of great—we had almost written "considerable"—value; and authors of British Pharmaceutical Conference papers who are writing for the first time may also study them with profit. After all that can be said as to literary excellence, the stylist in science is of rare occurrence.

* *The Chemist & Druggist*, Jan. 11, 1930.

BULLETINS OF THE DRUG-TRADE
BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Director Robert P. Fischelis of the Bureau of Public Information has issued three more bulletins—3, 4 and 5. The third relates to the coming revision of the Pharmacopœia and the efforts of Chairman E. Fullerton Cook to secure information relative to the use and disuse of drugs and preparations, as a guidance in the revision. The fourth bulletin deals with Pharmacy Corps Bill, which seeks to improve the status of pharmacy and its service in the Army. Aside from reference to certain conditions, the hearing on the Bill, the progress of the work of the Committee, the bulletin concludes with a statement that present conditions do not stimulate a large interest in many highly qualified pharmacists to take up pharmacy in the Army. Bulletin 5, relates to the National meetings in Baltimore and in Washington; in Baltimore during the week of May 5th and in Washington during the next. These bulletins serve a good purpose; the wide publicity given thereby has a large part in establishing a better acquaintance of the public with pharmacy, its services and promotions.

Since the foregoing was put into type *Bulletins* 6 and 7 have been sent out to the press. The first speaks of "First Aid Week" and carries statistics and information for the public and is suggestive of the things needed and to be had in drug stores. The other points out the great work accomplished when Dr. Lyman Spalding laid the foundation for the United States Pharmacopœia and brought the first edition to completion. The purpose of the publicity is to interest the public and particularly those of the medical professions in having Dr. Lyman Spalding nominated for the Hall of Fame, New York University. It is hoped that many expressed their preference for Dr. Spalding by ballot (see September JOURNAL A. PH. A., p. 919, p. 924, p. 947, p. 949, p. 952).

HOTEL RATES,
AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL
ASSOCIATION, BALTIMORE, MD.

All Rooms with Bath.

Hotel Emerson:—*Headquarters:*—Single room, one person, \$3.50 per day; Double room, two persons, double bed, \$5.00; Double room, two persons, single beds, \$6.00.

Lord Baltimore:—Single room, one person, \$3.50 to \$6.50 per day; double room, two

persons, double bed, \$5.50 to \$8.50 per day; double room, two persons, single beds, \$6.50 to \$10.00 per day.

Southern Hotel:—Single room, one person, \$3.50 to \$6.50 per day; double room, two persons, double bed, \$5.50 to \$8.50 per day; double room, two persons, single beds, \$6.50 to \$10.00 per day.

For the United States Pharmacopœial
Convention, Washington, D. C.

Hotel Willard:—Single room, \$3.00; with bath, \$5.00 to \$8.00; double room without bath, two persons, \$5.00; with bath, \$7.00 to \$9.00 per day.

The Raleigh:—Single room and bath, \$4.00 to \$5.00; double room and bath, \$5.00 to \$7.00; double room and bath, single beds, \$7.00 to \$9.00 a day.

The Washington:—Single room, one person, \$5.00 to \$7.00; two persons, double bed, \$7.00 to \$8.00; double room, two persons, double bed, \$7.00 to \$8.00; twin beds, two persons, \$8.00 to \$12.00 a day; all rooms with private bath.

Hotel Powhatan:—Single room with bath, one person, \$4.00 to \$5.00; double room, two persons, \$6.00 to \$9.00 a day; \$8.00 to \$9.00 rooms have twin beds.

Hotel Harrington:—Single room, Court sides, \$2.50 to \$3.50; double room, Court side, \$4.00 to \$5.00; single room, street side, with bath, \$4.00 to \$4.50; double room, street side, with bath, \$4.00 to \$8.00 a day.

PLANT SCIENCE SEMINAR.

The Eighth Annual meeting of the Plant Science Seminar will be held in Washington, D. C., May 15th, 16th, 17th; place will be announced later.

EMIL ADOLPH GESSNER.

Captain Emil A. Gessner, member of the A. PH. A. since 1878, died at his home in New Haven, Conn., on February 3rd, aged 84 years. A sketch of the deceased will be found in the November JOURNAL for 1928, on page 1071. He was the owner of Apothecaries Hall, the oldest pharmacy in continuous existence in New Haven, and at the time of his death he had been in business for seventy years. He is survived by his widow and six children to whom sympathy is expressed.