

paragraph on aconite and a few pages on the pharmacology of the eye and of glaucoma.

One of the finest portions of Clark's "Applied Pharmacology," are the three chapters dealing with the pharmacology of the alimentary canal. These are well worth reading and comprise the latest scientific, pharmacological and therapeutic contributions on the subject, beginning with the functions of the salivary glands, and emetics, passing to the treatment of gastro-intestinal secretions and motility, and concluding with the complete pharmacological discussion of the effects of purgatives, sedatives and other drugs affecting the intestines. Of equal excellence are the two chapters devoted to the pharmacology of the circulation, the first of which, Chapter XVI, deals more particularly with the therapeutics of the heart, and the second with the effects of drugs on the blood vessels. Here, again, some of the latest scientific information on the subject is incorporated. The pharmacology of the respiration is taken up in Chapter XVIII and a large part of this chapter is devoted to a discussion of the fundamental physiological laws governing the respiratory function which must always be considered before a study of respiratory pharmacodynamics. Chapter XIX contains the usual treatment of the pharmacology of the kidneys, including a consideration of diuretics, kidney irritants, action of digitalis on the kidneys, relation of internal secretions to kidney function, etc. Chapter XXI gives a brief account of the principal drugs acting primarily on the uterus.

Considered as a whole, "Applied Pharmacology" is one of the best textbooks for its size written on the subject of pharmacology based primarily on experimental investigations. It is up-to-date; its style is very attractive; the illustrations, tables and graphs are novel and illuminating; and a carefully selected list of references, while not comprehensive, will be found useful by the student of a subject which is yearly gaining in importance.—D. I. M.

Colloid Chemistry, Principles and Applications, JEROME ALEXANDER, M.Sc. Third Edition, pages x + 270. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., N. Y., 1929. Price \$3.00.

This work is a revision of two previous editions, brought to date by the inclusion of the most recent developments in Colloid Chemistry. Even though encyclopædic in its scope, the book is at best only a popular presentation of the subject. The variety of titles dealing with the practical application

of the basic concepts of Colloid Chemistry is such that each receives but scanty treatment.

The text material is divided into 14 chapters; the appendix contains 16 pages devoted to Experimental Suggestions or Laboratory Manual, also a bibliography of English, German and French reference material. A brief glossary is also given, and the index is divided under the heads of Authors and Subjects.

Authoritative references are parenthesized throughout the reading matter instead of being appended as footnotes. The writer waxes poetical throughout the work and has quoted and invoked all and sundry from Shakespeare up to the moderns. In short, one who approaches this volume with anticipations of securing technical data in a straight-forward scientific manner is doomed to disappointment.

The book is a unit of the Industrial Chemical Monographs recently inaugurated under the editorial supervision of E. W. Lee Lewis and H. E. Howe.—SIMON MENDELSSOHN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

NARCOTIC CONTROL DRIVE WORRIES SWISS PRODUCERS.

Significant comment on the attitude of Swiss manufacturers of narcotics toward efforts to curtail illicit traffic in these drugs is contained in the following item which appeared in the *New York Times* as a wireless dispatch from Geneva:

A round-up of drug traffickers by the London police, combined with recent restrictive measures taken in America, is causing great anxiety to the wealthy proprietors of the big chemical factories at Basle, which supply 55 per cent of the world's drugs, especially cocaine and heroine.

The drugs, which are smuggled by groups with which they have no connection into North and South American ports on special subsidized vessels, are disguised in many ways and distributed on a large scale to the principal dealers, who in turn engage a small army of men and women of the underworld to keep night clubs and disorderly houses well stocked.

The Swiss government, owing to the inadequacy of existing regulations, has little control of Swiss drug exports, but a new and stricter law is under consideration as a result of protests from other nations. It is estimated that the drug traffic produces a profit of 700 to 800 per cent.