

President H. C. Christensen, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The officers for the ensuing year are: *President*, R. I. Beddoe, Bedford; *First Vice-President*, F. E. Ebershoff, Lafayette; *Second Vice-President*, C. F. Wilson, Rushville; *Third Vice-President*, Roy Skinner, Plymouth; *Secretary*, J. V. McCullough, New Albany; *Treasurer*, J. W. Weis, Hammond.

#### AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The 23rd annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association

was held at Hot Springs, Va., June 9th to 12th. A number of valuable reports were presented, among them that of the Contact Committee. Addresses were made by Dr. J. J. Durrett and Dr. J. F. Cullen, of the Division of Drug Control, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Secretary E. F. Kelly attended as representative of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Among the speakers at the banquet were, Dr. O. S. Wightman of New York Medical Society, Herbert R. Mayes, of the *American Druggist*, Jerry McQuade of *Drug Topics*, Harry J. Schnell, of *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*The Properties and Uses of Drugs.* By HENRY H. RUSBY, Ph.M., M.D., D.Sc., and A. RICHARD BLISS, JR., A.M., Phar.D., M.D., and CHARLES W. BALLARD, A.M., Phar.D., Ph.D. xvii and 823 pp. P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Inc., Philadelphia, 1930. Price \$6.50.

This work has been prepared by three well-known scientists for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the pharmacy students and practicing pharmacists on the subjects of drug properties and uses. As stated in the preface, the authors disclaim any intention of providing a textbook of therapeutics and have made no attempt to restrict the list of drugs on the basis of merit or repute. The book contains a table of contents, 24 chapters, 3 appendices and an index.

The chapters deal with the following topics arranged in the sequence of the text: 1, Official and Legal Standards, Definitions, Posology, Modes of Administration of Medicines. 2, Toxicology. 3, Drugs Used for Coloring Purposes. 4, Absorbents and Dusting Powders. 5, Adhesives, Demulcents and Protectives. 6, Drugs Acting as Irritants to the Nerve Endings. 7, Drugs Preventing or Relieving Irritation of the Nerve Endings. 8, Nutrients and Foods, Medicines Affecting the Appetite and Digestion. 9, The Bitters and Aromatic Bitters. 10, The Astringents. 11, Drugs Affecting the Circulation. 12, The Cathartics. 13, The Carminatives. 14, Drugs Affecting Glandular Activity. 15, Medicines Affecting the Respiratory System. 16, The Nervines. 17, Alteratives and Tonics. 18, Drugs Acting Chiefly by Their Contained Saponins. 19, Drugs Acting by Their Antiseptic, Disinfectant and Antiparasitic Powers. 20, Agents Inhibiting Bacterial Action and

Decomposition. 21, Antiseptics and Disinfectants—Physical Agents. 22, Antiseptics and Disinfectants—Chemical Agents. 23, Antiseptics and Disinfectants—Biological Products. 24, Antiparasitics.

Appendix A deals with the Insecticides, Fungicides and Fumigants; Appendix B with Pharmaceutical Sundries and Appendix C with a Veterinary Dose Table.

The chapter on Toxicology discusses the nature of the symptoms of poisoning. Antidotes are discussed under poisonous drugs throughout the book. Chemical methods of detecting poisons are not given.

In their treatment of drugs the authors follow the therapeutical method of classification. Their system of grouping the therapeutic classes acting upon similar tissues into separate chapters is good pedagogy, for it breaks the monotony experienced by students in following out a lengthy chapter on therapeutic classification even though it may be minutely subdivided into captions.

The data in the monographs dealing with organic drugs, in general, follow this sequence: Latin and English titles, and synonym or synonyms (in bold face type), origin, preparation, constituents, uses, dose and preparations. The data pertaining to inorganic drugs include, in general, information pertaining to the definition, purity rubric, preparation, physical properties, uses, dose and preparations.

In addition official drugs are defined, interesting comments are made in many cases under origin, the toxicology of poisonous drugs is given and the adulterants or causes of inferiority of many drugs are briefly commented upon.

This work is unique in several respects. In the first place, unlike most other materia

medica texts, it is plainly a pharmacists' pharmacology. We do not have to read many pages without recognizing on the part of the authors an intimate knowledge of the needs of the modern practicing pharmacist. The introduction of appendices dealing with insecticides, fumigants and fungicides, sundries such as rubber goods, plasters and surgical accessories such as ligatures, sutures, stomach tubes, bandages, tourniquets, catheters, etc., are commendable, for pharmacy students do not ordinarily receive the broad training on these accessories essential to the effective handling of a variety of them in the average drug store. Others without any drug store experience can be materially helped in their preparation to handle these articles through the careful study of these portions of the work. In the second place the authors have stressed a number of problems ordinarily passed over with little or no comment in most *materia medica* texts. Of these the well-written monographs on "Infant Foods and Saponins" are especially commendable.

Moreover, there is a freshness and an easy style of verbage throughout the whole work which stimulates the reader to complete a monograph and go on with others. The work lacks the extremely technical style of verbage found in many works of this character.

Very few errors of fact or typographical errors were noted. Several peculiar statements were observed. For example, under Pituitarium (page 251) the authors state that the active constituents are two amines. This has not been accepted by many competent pharmacologists whose information demonstrates that only one active constituent is present. Under Ergota (page 253) the authors misquote the Pharmacopœia in stating that ergot, in the form of fluidextract, is administered by intravenous injection to single comb white Leghorn cocks; intramuscular injection is specified in the Pharmacopœia. Under Nux Vomica (page 391) the authors state that strychnine "not only makes the aged feel younger, but, used with intelligent care, it is employed to retard the aging process." Proof of this should have been added, at least by a reference.

The text is printed on substantial paper and well bound. It represents a valuable addition to the growing list of pharmaceutical text and reference works and will be found a very useful reference in the hands of practicing pharmacists. HEBER W. YOUNGKEN.

*A Textbook of Pharmacognosy—Third Edition.* By HEBER W. YOUNGKEN. In order to include the recent drugs and the recent information about the old drugs, this text naturally is somewhat larger than the previous editions.

Many new figures have been added which aid considerably in teaching the structure of drug plants. Of these the photographs and drawings are better than the photomicrographs. As the science of photomicrography improves we hope that such textbooks as this will be better illustrated.

The photographs of the drug plants and those showing the method of production of some plant principles add much to the value of the book. One cannot include too many such illustrations in a textbook of pharmacognosy.

Under the history of pharmacognosy valuable information is added in a condensed form. This interesting phase of the subject has been neglected in the past and it is gratifying to note that more recognition is being given to it.

One criticism of the book is that in Chapter II the author has not been consistent in treating the various plant parts used in medicine. Under "roots" and "seeds" he has followed a good outline, the various divisions being placed in bold-face type. This adds to the teaching value of the book and should have been followed in treating the other plant parts.

In Chapter III under "Microanalytical Methods," the author presents the very latest information on this subject. While some of the best microanalysts of the country question the accuracy of any known method for quantitative microanalysis, it is good to present the subject in this kind of a text.

In many texts, and even in the Pharmacopœia, authors have failed to include definite contrasting characters in describing closely related and similar drugs. In this text, however, the author seems to have realized the importance of this method of describing drugs. As illustrations we may cite the descriptions of Cubebs and Pepper; Peppermint and Spearmint; and the two varieties of Quassia. Some teachers will be pleased to find that the dose of each drug has been included.

As a whole the book shows that the author is making it a more teachable one. C. J. ZUFALL.

#### OMISSIONS FROM THIS NUMBER.

*On account of the minutes of the General Sessions, House of Delegates and Committee Reports it is necessary to omit several of the Departments from this number of the Journal.*