

of special interest. They reveal the names of medicaments with which the sea-going crafts, that crossed the Atlantic to New France, were provided. No doubt, these medicaments were not only used en route but in the American ports as well in which these vessels were anchored. Hence these lists may throw some light upon the materia medica available to the early, though transient, practitioner on this side of the Atlantic.

While these monographs are making better known the past of French pharmacy and will ultimately make possible the writing of a true history of French pharmacy, they are serving another equally useful purpose at the present time. Whereas some of the modern commercial tendencies seem to weaken the foundation on which professional pharmacy rests, these historical studies strengthen it. Pharmacy is more in need than ever of scientific research on the one hand and of historic research on the other. May both receive greater support with each year and thus bring about the pharmaceutical renaissance of the future.

EDWARD KREMERS.

GESCHICHTE DER CHEMIE. Kurzgefasste Darstellung von Dr. Thor. Ekecrantz, O. Professor der Chemie und Pharm. Chemie an dem Pharmazeut. Institut zu Stockholm. Aus dem Schwedischen Original von Verfasser Bearbeitet. Ein Bd. pp. viii, 230 mit funfundzwanzig Bildnissen im Text. Leipzig. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft M. B. H., 1913.

Inasmuch as the book is not provided with a preface, the reader is left to surmise what induced the author to publish this history and what principles guided him in writing it. There are eight chapters, the first four of which are devoted to the period of antiquity, the alchemistic period, the iatrochemical period and the phlogistic period respectively. Chapter five is devoted to the downfall of the phlogistic doctrine. Chapter six bears the heading "Chemical research after Lavoisier up to the middle of the nineteenth century," and chapter eight that of the "Development of theoretical chemistry from the middle of the nineteenth century up to the present time. Chapter eight is a three page, hence totally inadequate account of the "Development of chemical instruction" and comprises chemical literature as well as institutions for instruction.

Chapters one to four are an attempt at a brief but well rounded presentation of the guiding theories as well as the practical accomplishments of the respective periods. Detail is in large measure suppressed by placing short biographical sketches of the principal representatives at the end of the respective chapters. The next three chapters are devoted to theoretical considerations only. The short biographies with occasional portraits are again appended, hence in no way mar the presentation of conflicting theories and hypotheses.

Those of us who are interested in the renaissance of the history of the sciences welcome every new treatise as a manifestation of the spread of the attention that is being devoted to this, so long neglected, aspect of the natural sciences. It does not follow, however, that each attempt at writing chemical history comes up to our expectations. The course in the history of chemistry as a part of a college or university education is still in its formative stages and teachers do not appear to have come any where near to an agreement as to what ought to

be taught, much less how it should be taught. To what extent Ekecrantz's History of Chemistry will meet the wants of a text by such teachers of the subject as desire a text for this purpose remains to be seen.

It is no easy matter even for those of us who have been interested in the history of chemistry for a period of years, to place ourselves into the mental attitude e. g. of the phlogistonists, much less to acquire the point of view of the alchemists or ancients. This desirable attitude is even more difficult of attainment by e. g. the senior of a college course, who has only too often gained the impression that nothing in chemistry is worth knowing that precedes Ostwald e. g. in physical chemistry or Kekulé in structural chemistry, etc., or who at least believes heartily in the dictum that chemistry is a French science that had its birth with some of the remarkable deductions by Lavoisier. This difficulty is not overcome if, e. g. in discussing the conception of matter by the ancients, the student is told that Thales regarded water as prime matter from which all other substances are derived, or that Anaximenes regarded air and Heraclitus fire as the "Urrstoff." Such statements without a word of comment as to the reasons why the Greek philosophers made these assumptions naturally cause the student to smile disdainfully at Greek philosophy though the teachings of Aristotle played so important a role in human thought for almost two thousand years. Rather than to encourage the self-satisfied youth of the twentieth century in his notion that all who preceded us were fools we should endeavor more carefully to cause them to appreciate the achievements of those on whose difficult labors our more conspicuous scientific superstructure has been reared.

EDWARD KREMERS.

THE BOY IN THE MAN.

It is no use talking and moralizing about the weight of years, the dignity of position, or the pressure of keeping up appearances. Somewhere under the public skin of every good, decent man, there lives, breathes, and moves a big boy! Just a boy, with all a boy's dreams and aspirations, even though the influence of the world has "laid its heavy yoke upon the old white-bearded folk who strive to please the King," and he knows in his heart of hearts that the glamour of it all is not a solid structure. "We hope, we remember, we 'dream' to the last!" God keep us dreaming the bright dreams and imaginings of youth! There is nothing in later life half so pleasant.—*Robert Lloyd.*