

Book Reviews

PHARMACY; THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL—A Text-Book Treating of the General Principles of Theoretical and Practical Pharmacy. 493 octavo pages. By Oscar Oldberg, Pharm. D. LL.D., Dean Emeritus Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, Chicago. Geo. D. Oglesby, Publisher, 31 Lake St., Chicago, 1913. \$3.00.

This, the latest, and destined also to be the final contribution of its distinguished author to didactic pharmacy, is received with unusual interest by pharmacists at this time, notice of the author's death coming to hand just prior to the writing of these few lines.

While the work does not aim to be as comprehensive as some other manuals of pharmacy, it does present an excellent review of that heterogeneous collection of physico-chemical facts and processes that are commonly included under the title, Theory and Practice of Pharmacy.

In this volume the author is seen at his best in the elucidation of natural laws in their pharmaceutical relationship, and if age and disease had impaired his physical powers, the impairment is not reflected in the present work. Here we see the same power of critical analysis, of clear and concise definition and of comprehensive generalization that have distinguished his writings in the past, and while there is perhaps nothing absolutely new in the subject matter, the manner of its presentation is so fresh, and in such attractively written English, that the volume will be read with interest by those who long ago have attained the rank of master pharmacist, as well as by those just entering the work of their apprenticeship.

The selection of topics and their arrangement display clearly the mental attitude of one who has long been a teacher, and to those who have occupied like positions it is evident how the effort to reach the understanding and attract the interest of the student has moulded the style and thought of the author.

In form the work partakes more of the character of an essay upon the theory and art of pharmacy, rather than that of a formal text-book, that is, the style is open and discursive, seeking not merely to present as many specific statements of fact in as small a compass as possible, but rather to develop a philosophical system that shall show the relations and interdependence of the several parts of the subject, and to construct something that shall approach to a logical classification of the subject matter of pharmacy, even if that classification is artificial and dependent upon the peculiar viewpoint of its inventor.

The book is well printed and bound and rather abundantly illustrated. Many of the cuts, however, are antiquated and poorly reproduced, though some of those illustrating the implements and processes of modern manufacturing pharmacy are of good quality.

The most evident fault of the work is the entire absence of an index, though this is partially atoned for by the presence of an unusually comprehensive table of contents.

J. H. BEAL.