

## Book Reviews

E. MERCK'S ANNUAL REPORT OF RECENT ADVANCES IN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY AND THERAPEUTICS. Vol. XXV; 511 pages; paper binding. E. Merck's Chemical Works Darmstadt. American distributors, Merck & Co., New York.

This annual compilation of chemical and therapeutic information originated in brief reports of a similar character which were issued at irregular intervals by their distinguished editor, E. Merck, beginning in 1870. From the first the value and impartiality of these communications were so well recognized that the increasing demand for them soon led to their issue as an annual publication. The total distribution at the present time amounts to 60,000 copies annually, divided among the four languages, German, English, French and Russian.

According to the established policy of the editor, the report deals with medicinal products which have a well recognized scientific and professional interest, and hence excludes from consideration remedies of secret composition, or which for other reasons are of doubtful character.

Notwithstanding its connection with a commercial enterprise, the report is now, and always has been, distinguished by its entire impartiality, the medicaments produced by rival concerns being given as fair treatment as those originating with the house of Merck.

The present volume differs from its predecessors, mainly in its greater size. In line with the policy established several years ago, it contains chapters devoted to the special consideration of certain important groups of drugs and medicinal preparations, and giving a fairly comprehensive review of the literature concerning such pharmacological groups. Examples of this kind are found in the present volume in the chapters devoted to the consideration of the "glycerophosphates," and the "digitalis glucosides and allied drugs."

The publishers announce that the stock of copies remaining for distribution is limited, but that as long as any are available single copies will be sent to physicians and pharmacists who apply for them, sending 15 cents for postage, no charge being made for the volume itself.

J: H. BEAL.

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PHARMACAL PLANTS AND THEIR CULTURE. By Albert Schneider, M. D., Ph. D. California State Board of Forestry, Sacramento, Calif. 175 pages; paper.

The above volume, issued under the auspices of the California State Board of Forestry and compiled by Dr. Albert Schneider of the California College of Pharmacy, is intended to give a general review of the plants of that state which have or have had some use in pharmacy and medicine.

Chapter one is devoted to general considerations, under which are discussed climatic conditions and distribution of flora, lists of California drugs obtainable

in the market, lists of drugs that may be collected profitably, general suggestions for the cultivation of medicinal drugs in California, cultural methods, collecting and preparing drugs for market, etc., etc. Chapter two presents a review of the literature relating to the subject, both under the names of their respective authors and by subjects. Chapter three deals with a list of drug plants which it is presumed may be profitably cultivated in California with suggestions regarding culture, collection, curing, marketing, etc. Chapter four is devoted to an account of the native and introduced medicinal and poisonous drugs of the state, and is accompanied by many interesting notes relating to the use of the various native drugs by the Indians, their possible utilization for various purposes, etc., etc. This chapter comprises the greater portion of the book, covering over 100 pages and names and describes briefly a total of 869 species.

A large amount of valuable and interesting information is given under the respective titles, and the publication should result in greatly increased interest in the subject of drug cultivation in California and elsewhere. J. H. BEAL.

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#### OIL OF CHENOPODIUM IN HOOKWORM DISEASE.

Schuffner and Vervoort state that in their practice at Delhi in the last fifteen years they have found uncinariasis extraordinarily prevalent. In the last eight months they have been giving oil of chenopodium a thorough trial in 1,457 cases, comparing the efficacy with that of thymol, naphthol and other vermifuges. Compared with eucalyptus oil with a coefficient of 38, naphthol with 68 and thymol with 83, oil of chenopodium surpassed them all with 91. Another great advantage is that it expels ascarides with the hookworms, thus impressing the minds of the patients much more than when the insignificant hookworms alone are expelled. It is also comparatively pleasant to take.—*Journ. A. M. A., Vol. LX, p. 706.*

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#### A GREAT COMBINATION.

One druggist makes a solid, substantial success of his business because he is shrewd at the buying end; another because is shrewd at the selling end; another because he has what his customers demand and of the very best quality. What an equipment has that druggist who includes all three in his business dealings.—*The Spatula.*