

265 III. App. 308"—*Courtesy W. Bruce Philip.*

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General Sales Tax—how it works. The conclusions are that it is efficient as a revenue producer, has justified itself, at least as an emergency measure.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A Textbook of Pharmaceutics. By ARTHUR OWEN BENTLEY, Ph.C., Head of the School of Pharmacy and Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutics, University College, Nottingham; joint author of a "Textbook of Pharmaceutical Chemistry; author of "Aids to Dispensing," third edition, 1933, revised and enlarged. Demmy, 8 vol., pp. xii + 926, with appendix and 234 illustrations. Price 15s. net. Postage Inland 9d; U. S. 1s. Publishers, Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 7 x 8 Henrietta Street, Convent Garden, London, W.C. 2.

The author states that this book covers the requirements in pharmaceutics of the syllabuses of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the University of London, and of the Pharmaceutical Societies and Boards of the British Empire. Privilege has been granted for using certain portions of the British Pharmacopœia and of the British Pharmaceutical Codex.

Part I of this book deals with the history of pharmaceutics in Great Britain; reference is made to an interesting account of the early history in a paper by Editor J. P. Gilmour on "The Origins of British Pharmacy," in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, for September 17, 1932. Pharmacy is described under the following subjects: Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Forensic Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics. It is stated that the latter subject deals with the preparation, from biological or chemical sources, of materials in a convenient form for use as medicines, and with the preparing of medicines in a form suitable for administration or application. The subject is subdivided for purposes of study into four sections—History of Pharmaceutics, General Principles and Apparatus, Dispensing of Medicines, Pharmaceutical Preparations.

Part V deals with Pharmaceutical Biology and the Appendix includes tables of doses and of solubilities. The sections or parts are discussed in 86 chapters:

Part I has 36 pages devoted to history of pharmaceutics, 1511–1841, from there on to the history of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1841–1932, and the history of the British Pharmacopœia.

Under Weights and Measures, the Imperial System, Avoirdupois Weight, Apothecaries Weight, and the Metric System are considered. A distinction is recorded between dram and drachm—the former is stated "to be $\frac{1}{16}$ part of the avoirdupois ounce and should not be confused with drachm, which is the $\frac{1}{8}$ part of the apothecaries ounce." The Imperial standard gallon weighs 10 lb., the equal of 70,000 grains; there are 20 fluidounces in a pint. In the Metric System, the French spelling is followed, *i. e.*, "litre," "metre." In giving weight values Kilogram is spelled with a cap K (page 62), but dekagram is spelt with l. c. d. It is further stated that gramme is spelled thus instead of "gram" to avoid confusion with "grain" in writing, and should be abbreviated "G." Seemingly there is considerable confusion; furthermore, in explaining measures of capacity the terms mil, centimil and decimil are given. Also in an article following (page 63) abbreviation gm. and not G. is used.

A matter worthy of favorable comment is the giving of tolerances in weights and measures, but there seems (?) to be irregularity in graduation, for example, in a 10-ounce weight the excess allowed is 0.7 grain and in a 1-ounce weight, 0.2 grain. In measures with internal diameters (approx.) at graduation tested, the excess or deficiency allowed is: 4 inches—25 minims; 2 inches—11 minims; 1 inch—4 minims. It seems to the writer that the tolerances are not sufficient to safeguard the pharmacist.

The chapter or sources of heat have been brought up-to-date for the retail pharmacist; that dealing with "Solutions" and the one on "Decantation and Filtration," that on "Osmotic Pressure," and the one "Emulsions" deserve favorable mention. Considerable additional matter has been embodied in the revisions of the chapters on "Distillation" and "Percolation."

The chapters on "Dispensing" and "Pharmaceutical Preparations" will prove helpful. The tables of "Doses and Solubilities" are published in an appendix of the volume, which may be removed from the book, if desired, and used on the prescription desk for convenience.

The volume of which mention is made has been prepared for British pharmacists and students, but will frequently serve a good purpose for American pharmacists.

Alcohol and Man—The Effects of Alcohol on Man in Health and Disease. By HAVEN EMERSON, M.D., Editor, DeLamar Institute of Public Health, Columbia University. The MacMillan Company, New York City, 1932. Pages xi + 451, 15 x 24 cm. Price \$3.50.

In conjunction with several associate editors and specialists in various branches of pharmacology, physiology, sociology and psychiatry, the editor has produced a comprehensive and authoritative symposium embracing the present knowledge of alcohol.

The work is divided into six parts. Each of these divisions has further subheadings contributed by various specialists. The six major divisions of the treatise are:

1. The Effects of Alcohol on Human Functions.
2. The Effects of Alcohol on the Cell and in Heredity.
3. Alcohol as a Poison and a Medicine.
4. Alcohol and Body Resistance and Pathology.
5. Effect of Alcohol on Man's Conduct and Mentality.
6. Alcohol and Longevity, Mortality and Morbidity.

In the various chapters of the book vital and perplexing questions such as the influence of alcohol upon offspring are discussed from a physiological, pharmacological and statistical standpoint. Alcohol and the Overton-Meyer theory of narcosis is elaborated on. The classical experiments of Stockard concerning the influence of alcohol vapor on guinea pigs in successive generations are developed and discussed by the experimenter himself.

The references to the literature are embracing. The book is absolutely devoid of any prejudice or social influence that so often colors works on alcohol.

The style is clear and concise, and in the mind of the reviewer the volume bids fair to stand for years as the authoritative treatise on this subject.—JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR.

Man and Medicine.—In the following, liberty is taken in quoting the *New Republic*:

"The recent establishment at Johns Hopkins of a school devoted to the history of medicine may prove to be an event of much or of little significance. It depends upon the breadth or narrowness of the conception of medicine and

upon how extended and adventurous is the search for the elements of its history. Whether the school proves to be a center of creative work, a shop for the manufacture of documented erudition or just another excursion into futility must depend upon its personnel. A few weeks ago Henry E. Sigerist came from Leipzig to lead the new venture, and if his recently published 'Man and Medicine' is prophetic evidence, his subject bids fair to be numbered among the humanities.

"The trouble with most books on the history of medicine is that they have little interest for persons who are not interested in medicine. The better ones are competent, technical, but overwhelming, treatises addressed by the professional to members of his craft. The occasional excursions into popular discussion play for interest by using colorful and irrelevant biographical material or by dramatizing significant discoveries. But whether professional or popular, they all stage the search for truth as a triumphal march ending in a hallelujah chorus. One and all, they deal with the development of medicine as a thing apart from prevailing opinion and the vulgar course of human events."

"It is an unconsciousness of its kind which gives distinction to Sigerist's book and augurs well for the enterprise at Hopkins. To him medicine is an aspect of the development of culture, a product of the successive ways of the mind in research, a reflection of the spirit of the many ages through which it has passed. In the imperfect and sprawling lines of its contemporary pattern, it is the creature of the need, thought and circumstance it has met."

Nos Plantes Médicinales de France. Another set of these beautiful cards has been published; there are eight cards in the set—7¹/₂ by 5¹/₄ inches and the price of the set is three francs. Address your order to L'Office National des Matières Premières, 12, Avenue du Marne, Paris. The illustrations depict the plants or parts of them with remarkable resemblance enabling one to recognize the plant in nature. The backs of the cards give information relative to the plant, its botany, pharmacognosy, uses and names of plants in a number of languages—French, English, German, Italian, Spanish. Chart 81 illustrates the cork-tree, method of gathering the bark, the leaves, flower and fruit, and explains its uses. Illustration 82 relates to the willow; 83 presents Provence rose; 84, blackberry; 85, shepherd's purse; 86, mistletoe; 87, sage; 88, periwinkle.