

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Lehrbuch der Physiopharmakognosie für Pharmazeuten By RICHARD WASICKY, Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna. Part II, pages 335-915, 123 figs. and 1 col. illust. Paper bound. Carl Fromme, Vienna and Leipzig, 1932.

The second part of Dr. Wasicky's work presents a continuation of his discussion of drugs classified according to their physiological action and medicinal uses. In this volume, after a brief introduction, medicinal materials are considered under the following captions: Anthelmintics, cholagogues and cholaretics, remedies for diseases of the respiratory tract, cardiacs, vascular remedies, diuretics, anti-diuretics, diaphoretics, anhydrotics, aphrodisiacs and anaphrodisiacs, blood and bone remedies, remedies for diseases due to faulty metabolism, styptics, specific remedies for infectious diseases, remedies for bladder diseases, for the treatment of eye maladies, for nose and ear troubles, for obstetrical and gynecological use, galactagogues, cutaneous remedies, remedies for the treatment of genital diseases, adjuvant remedies of prescriptions and other remedies, addenda and corrections.

Under many of these captions the author places subcaptions of drugs based upon similarity of their action or constituents, etc. For example, the caption of "Anthelmintics" is subdivided into *A*, Drugs of the *Filix* group, *B*, Anthelmintics with effective alkaloids, *C*, Cina and the group of drugs with anthelmintic effective ethereal oils, and *D*, "Drugs with unexplained anthelmintic action."

Both the greater and the lesser groups are discussed as to general peculiarities of the drugs included. There follows a separate discussion for each drug belonging to the group. Each important drug is first defined. After usually brief statements upon synonym, habitat, plant or animal, the culture and commercial varieties, the gross anatomical and histological features are considered. This is followed by a detailed consideration of the chemical properties of their constituents, the most active of which are described with the aid of graphic formulas. The adulterants and substitutes receive due attention. In some instances short historical notes upon the introduction of the drug and the isolation of its chief active constituents or other interesting information concludes the monograph.

The system of classification used by the

author differs from that usually found in Pharmacognosy texts, the concepts employed for many of its captions and subcaptions being quite original.

The histological features of many of the drugs are largely limited to outstanding structures while others are considered in more detail. No special consideration is given to the microscopy of the powdered article.

In the field of drug chemistry the work deserves particular commendation for it is in this least elaborated phase of most pharmacognosy texts that the author applies his greatest emphasis and exhibits a profound acquaintance with the subject.

The pages that he devotes to the saponins (pages 382-392) are rich with up-to-date information upon the subject in which he is an authority of the first magnitude.

The type is clear and many of the illustrations are well selected. It was somewhat surprising to note the unusual practice of placing the author citations of scientific names of plants and animals in italics, since this is not the accepted method of biologists.

The volume as a whole is of excellent merit and can be recommended as a reference to professional pharmacists, pharmaceutical chemists and workers in the field of pharmacognosy and plant chemistry.—H. W. YOUNGKEN.

The *Apotheker Kalender* for 1933. Issued by the German Apothecaries' Society. This annual publication is always welcome. The issue for 1933 is the 8th, and depicts a number of interesting historical events; it is printed on heavier paper than heretofore. For those who desire to use the illustrations as separate cards it is an improvement; for those who have been accustomed to preserve the *Kalender*, as in the past, the thinner paper may be preferred; this, however, does not detract from the artistic production of Dr. Fritz Ferchl who gives much time to this excellent work and places all pharmacists in debt to him for this service. On the cover is the reproduction of a portrait of Hulderich Wolfhardt, an apothecary of the 18th century. Other illustrations are engravings or wood cuts of notable personages in German pharmacy, exteriors and interiors of historic pharmacies and varied subjects of pharmaceutical interest. There are a number of interesting reproductions of manuscripts; for example, a letter of Karl Friedrich Mohr, apothecary, who contributed largely to the

analytical chemical method of titration and is also known in connection with the balance by his name. One of the pages carries a reproduction of "Schroeders Medico-Chemical Pharmacopœia;" another, that of an oil painting of a pharmacy of the 17th century. A letter from Baron von Liebig to Heinrich Emanuel Merck is timely; it was a son of the latter who discovered the papaverine in Liebig's Laboratory. These references could be continued throughout the pages of the Kalender of about forty pages, all of which are most interesting. In ordering our copy of the Kalender a number of extra copies were included for the convenience of our readers. It is, of course, understood that no advanced price is asked; including postage, this is 75 cents. Requests should be addressed to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, 10 West Chase St., Baltimore.

The Canadian Formulary, with which is bound *The Reference Companion*. Prepared by The Committee on Pharmaceutical Standards. A copy of the Formulary has been received too late for comment, which will be made in the next issue of the JOURNAL. We are indebted to the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Formulaire des Medicaments Nouveaux for 1933, 36th Edition, compiled by Dr. R. WEITZ, member of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Paris, and pharmacist at the Paris dispensary. The preface has been written by PROF. PAUL CARNOT of the Faculty of Medicine, Paris. Published by J. B. Baillière and Sons, 19 rue Hautefeuille, Paris, France. Price 36 francs, in paper binding.

The Formulary is the successor of the Formulaires Bocquillon Limousin. Prior editions of this Formulary have been reviewed in the JOURNAL. In the preparation of this book the officials of the French Codex have not been included. The preparations are described in monographs and more attention has been given to the therapeutics than in other publications of this kind. While of first importance to the French pharmacist, the Formulary is of value in all pharmacies where foreign prescriptions are filled. Both official and trade names are given of chemicals, description and their dosage. An index of sixty pages speaks for the number of items which have received consideration in this Formulary. The concluding pages of the book contain an alphabetical list of pharmaceutical specialties, together with the names of the manufacturers.

History of the German Apothecaries' Society 1820-1932, edited by BERTOLD KRISCHKE. Pages VII + 315. Published by the German Apothecaries' Society at Berlin. This interesting volume of history of the German Apothecaries' Society has been published in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the amalgamation of the northern and southern German societies. The text has been prepared from official records by the editor who has taken an active part in affairs of the Association for more than forty-five years. He has succeeded in giving in a condensed form a very complete report of German pharmaceutical matters, beginning with 1820. Conditions in general, and particularly of the drug business, are interestingly reported. The volume is well bound and printed and evidences not only a careful student but an acquaintance with the events that makes of this publication a valuable historical record.

The Egyptian government has issued its annual report, for the year 1932, of the Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau. It covers 170 pages and deals with all phases of the production of narcotics and narcotic traffic; the means applied in smuggling and a general account of the progress made in restricting narcotic addiction.

A memorial number of the Apothecaries' Society of Nuernberg, commemorating the 300th anniversary of the pharmaceutical college, has been prepared by pharmacist L. BRUNNER, and issued by the Society of Nuernberg and the Society for the History of Pharmacy, and illustrated by pharmacist Dr. Ferchl. It is an interesting historical volume full of information of the period covered by the publication.

DISCUSSION OF FOOD AND DRUG ACT REVISION.

Representatives of the Food and Drug Trade as well as officers of several associations of publishers, broadcasters and advertisers have been invited to meet with the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, R. G. Tugwell, April 27th to 29th to offer suggestions regarding a revision of the Food and Drugs Act.
