

is disturbed and the enforcement of the necessary standards, which our Committee have established, is helped. The first duty of the Committee of Revision is to decide the scope of the new Pharmacopœia, that it may represent the therapeutic agents of the day believed to be worthy of recognition. This duty remains exclusively in our hands.

#### ACCURACY OF VITAMIN A TEST IN RELATION TO DURATION OF TEST.

By a statistical examination of the results of 201 vitamin A tests, the accuracy of such tests for a period of dosing of one to five weeks was determined. The experiments were carried out by the usual method of feeding rats on a diet deficient in vitamin A until they ceased to grow and then giving, in addition, doses of the substance under examination for a period of five weeks. The results were calculated from the responses of the rats alive at the end of each week of the test; 1129 buck and 1282 doe were alive at the end of the first week and 960 buck and 1110 doe at the end of the fifth week. The curves relating increase in weight to dose of vitamin A given were found to be approximately logarithmic for each week as would be expected from those previously published for five weeks' growth.

The standard deviation of the increase in weight of these rats was found to increase with the length of the test. This result was contrary to that of Norris and Church (*J. Nut.*, 5 (1932), 495). The probable error of an estimation was determined for groups of ten buck or ten doe for each week. The error was found to decrease rapidly up to the third week, and then very slowly. The values for the probable error of a result at three weeks were 21 per cent above or 18 per cent below the true value for buck and 30 per cent above or 23 per cent below the true value for doe. The corresponding figures for a five weeks' test were 17 per cent above or 15 per cent below the true value for buck and 24 per cent above or 19 per cent below the true value for doe. The author therefore maintains that the increase in accuracy would not in general justify the extra expenditure of time and labor.—K. H. Coward, The Pharmacological Laboratories of the Pharmaceutical Society (*Biochem. J.*, 27 (1933), 445).

### OBITUARY.

#### HENRY G. GREENISH.

Prof. Henry G. Greenish, *honorary member* of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION since 1913, died at his home Willesden Green, London, England, on August 2nd, aged 78 years. He was the son of the late Thomas Greenish, president of the British Pharmaceutical Society in 1880-1882 and of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1886; the son, Henry G., was apprenticed to his father, he won a Bell scholarship in 1875 and in 1876-1877 earned five silver medals in addition to that of the Society. After passing the Major examination he was for a time demonstrator in the School of the British Pharmaceutical Society. He continued his studies at the Universities of Dorpat and Vienna and returning to his *Alma Mater*, was appointed a lecturer (1890) and professor in 1893. The office of Dean of the School and Professor of Pharmaceutics was established a few years later; and on the recognition of the School by the University of London he became its Professor of Pharmaceutics.

Professor Greenish took an active part in the revisions of the British Pharmacopœia for 1898 and 1914, and was joint editor of the latter. He was a member of the Commission set up in connection with the preparation of the British Pharmacopœia, 1932.

In 1911, with Sir William S. Glyn-Jones he toured Continental countries in order to gain information on the working of health insurance systems. During the World War he was frequently called upon by the Government with problems submitted by various departments.

He was author of "A Text Book of Pharmacognosy," now in its sixth edition; "The Microscopical Examination of Foods and Drugs;" and (in collaboration with the late M. Collin) of an "Anatomical Atlas of Vegetable Powders;" his work in connection with the British Pharmaceutical Codex extended over many years and from 1891 to 1926 the "Year Book of Pharmacy" bears witness to his varied research. Dr. Greenish was president of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1922, the year of his silver wedding. In 1917 he received the Hanbury Medal and in 1920 the University of Paris conferred on him the honorary Doctor's degree.