BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Handbook of Chemotherapy. By DR. VIKTOR FISCHL, Departmental Director of the Schering-Kahlbaum A.G., Berlin, and PROF. HANS SCHLOSSBERGER, Member of the Reich Board of Health, Berlin-Dahlem. English translation by Dr. A. S. Schwartzman. H. G. Roebuck & Son, Publishers, Baltimore, 1933. 410 pages. Price $8.00.

This English translation of the "Handbook of Chemotherapy" will undoubtedly be considered by all those engaged either directly or indirectly in pharmacological research as one of the most interesting and important recent publications of its kind. The term chemotherapy, as employed by the authors, is the broader and more logical one introduced by a number of modern authors in opposition to the old and restricted word, *chemotherapy*, which Ehrlich applied to the treatment of a few specific blood infections by intravenous injection of certain chemicals, which was expected to result in a *therapia sterilisans magna*. There is no valid reason in modern experimental pharmacology and therapeutics for not applying the term chemotherapy to any and every clear-cut pharmacological effect produced by a definite chemical compound on a specific physiological function; and this is the sense in which the word is employed by Fischl and Schlossberger in their important work, the first volume of which is now available in English. This volume of the "Handbook of Chemotherapy" deals with the so-called "metal-free" organic compounds producing specific pharmacological effects. After a brief introduction, to which are appended references to the general literature on chemotherapy, Chapter 1 begins with the acyclic chlorine compounds. Chloroform, carbon tetrachloride and other chlorinated compounds are discussed in this chapter, and a description is given of their action in relation to their chemical structure. Chapter 2 deals with the unsaturated fatty acids. Here the reader will meet many drugs with which he is familiar and also numerous chemical derivatives from the plant world of which he has probably never heard before. Thus, for instance, in addition to cod liver oil and its derivatives, and the chemistry of chaulmoogra in all its ramifications, he will be confronted by such substances as margosa oil, achaoti oil, nastin, gamelan, and a host of synthetic chemicals related to the various natural products described in this chapter. A third chapter deals with simple benzol and naphthalin derivatives as well as with oxy- and oxo compounds. In this section we have a discussion of the salicylates, the phenols, various anthelmintics and other compounds from the standpoint of chemotherapy and chemopharmacodynamic relationships. Chapter 4 contains a short description of the amino acids, succeeded by twenty-four pages devoted to the chemotherapeutic discussion of all the quinolin derivatives except quinine. In this series are found descriptions of Fourneau 710, plasmochin, various amino quinolins, atophan and many other compounds. Chapter 6 contains a complete discussion of quinin and its derivatives, universally regarded as among the most brilliant achievements of modern chemotherapeutic research. The seventh chapter is devoted to emetin and its derivatives and here, as is the case throughout the book, a résumé is given not only of the pure chemistry but also of the pharmacology, toxicology and therapeutic data concerning the respective compounds. Chapter 8 is devoted to a large variety of plant stuffs, including numerous glucosides and alkaloids, anthelmintics, antimalarial and antidysenteric substances. Chapter 9 discusses the acridin derivatives, while Chapter 10 describes dyestuffs of every conceivable structure except those which contain metals. Here we find a thorough consideration of the nitro and nitroso dyestuffs, such as picric acid and naphthol green; of azo dyestuffs, such as chrysoidin, trypan red, trypan blue and afridol blue; of the carbonium dyestuffs, such as malachite green, auramin, brilliant green, fuchsin, methyl violet, gentian violet and the eosins; of the azin dyestuffs, such as safranin; and of the oxazin and thiazin dyestuffs, including methylene blue. Chapter 11 deals with certain colorless urea derivatives and particularly with the historical germanin, otherwise known as Bayer 205, Fourneau 309, naganol and moranyl; and the final chapter contains a brief discussion. from a chemotherapeutic point of view, of blood serum of men and of certain types of apes.

The first volume of the English edition of the "Handbook of Chemotherapy" excels in its physical make-up, the print being remarkably clear and legible, the paper of very fine quality and the binding of durable character. Among the invaluable features of this work are the numerous and exceptionally clear formulas of

all the complicated compounds that must be discussed in any book on chemotherapy. Many excellent tables also add to the value of the book. At the end of each chapter appears an exhaustive bibliography, a conspicuous feature of any such reference work as the volume before us. It is to be hoped that H. G. Roebuck and Son, the American publishers who have made this significant venture, will receive sufficient encouragement from those interested in the advancement of pharmacology and pharmaceutical chemistry to induce them to publish the translation of the other two volumes of the "Handbook of Chemotherapy," a set of which, together with an appropriate index, should have its place among the books of all investigators in this field.—DAVID I. MACHT.

The following reprints have been received from the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories:

"The Alkaloids of Picralima Klaineana, Pierre, Part II," by T. A. Henry.

"Apparatus for Continuous Extraction by Chloroform," by H. Paget.

"Echitamine in Alstonia Barks," by J. A. Goodson.

"The Composition of Modern Quinetum," by J. A. Goodson and T. A. Henry.

"Apparatus for Quantitative Catalytic Reduction," by H. Paget and W. Solomon.

"Bases Derived from Some Substituted Propenylbenzenes with a Note on the Preparation of Pure Methylamine," by T. M. Sharp and W. Solomon.

"Experiments on Antimony Compounds Used in the Treatment of Bilharzia Disease and Kala-Azar," by W. H. Gray and J. W. Trevan.

Reprint from *Annales de l'Institut Pasteur* has been published on "The Control of Cordage and Cat Guts." The authors are A. Goris and A. Liot.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

The American Chemical Society will hold its 87th meeting in St. Petersburg, Fla., March 25th–30th. Dean Townes R. Leigh, of the College of Arts and Sciences, is the general chairman of the convention; he was formerly dean of the College of Pharmacy, reorganized in 1933 as a School of Pharmacy in the College of Arts and Sciences; B. V. Christensen is the director.

The Florida Medicinal Plant Garden is operated under the supervision of the Department of Pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy, University of Florida. Dean Leigh was president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 1931–1932.

Texas Pharmaceutical Association will probably change its time of meeting, to June 18th–21st; the place remains the same, namely, Mineral Wells, Tex.

The Copeland bill S. 2800 replaces former bills by Senator Copeland. Its purpose is to displace the present Act; hearing on this bill will be held Tuesday, February 27th.

DRUG STORES IN CUBA REOPEN AND PHARMACEUTICAL TRADE BECOMES NORMAL.

On January 24th, retail drug stores in Havana reopened, and the medical strike (which included nurses, hospital attendants, pharmacists, dentists, laboratory workers, undertakers—in fact, all branches of public-health workers and professionals) was brought to a close with the signing of an agreement between the secretary of the Department of Health and the officials of the Medical Federation. This agreement, based on 24 demands, served to stop the strike, which had left the island without health service except for serious emergency cases. All drug stores were closed, but it was stated that the Federation would permit the filling of prescriptions in certain cases which they considered urgent.—Assistant Trade Commissioner Kathleen Molesworth, Havana.

Dr. Wolfgang Schnellbach noted the abstract published in the January JOURNAL on page 30 and refers to an article by him in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for February 1929, on page 137, entitled "Yeast Extract I Have Known and Satisfactory Applied Mass Excipient." The abstract published in the January number is from the *Weekblad*, reference to which is given.

We are glad to call attention to the article by Dr. Schnellbach.