

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Pharmacognosy. By EDMUND B. GATHERCOAL, Ph.G., Ph.M., Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Illinois, College of Pharmacy, Member of U. S. P. Revision Committee, Chairman N. F. Revision Committee. ELMER H. WIRTH, Ph.C., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Illinois, College of Pharmacy, Member N. F. Revision Committee, Auxiliary Member of U. S. P. Revision Committee. Octavo, 852 pages, published 1936. Illustrated with 372 engravings and a colored plate. Publishers, Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, Price, \$7.50.

This work is a study of drugs originating in the plant and animal kingdoms and the determination of their identity and value. Their evaluation is microscopic, biological, chemical and physical and is designed to determine their quality, purity and the presence and nature of their adulterants. It is not concerned with their medicinal action which belongs to pharmacology. This text is based on Kraemer's classic work, but has been so thoroughly reconstructed and amplified as to be essentially a new and independent text. It gives the results of the recent research work in the chemistry of drugs, it reflects the most modern ideas and methods in the science and conforms to the eleventh revision of the United States Pharmacopœia and the sixth edition of the National Formulary. Pharmacognostical research has been particularly fruitful in the isolation of the chemical constituents of drugs and their identification by microchemical means. As a result, this work is able to offer a broad presentation of the chemical ingredients of the drugs and their microchemistry, presenting them as a leading feature for the first time in a pharmacognostical text.

"In addition this book offers many new descriptions of official chemical substances obtained from crude drugs and more comprehensive monographs of the crude drugs themselves, including several that have been recently introduced into medicine. The leading portions of the text are printed in a larger type than are the monographs of unofficial drugs and the more detailed and highly technical descriptions, thus not only giving the proper

Reprints. From B. E. Read, Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai.

"The Newer Pharmacology and Its Relationship to Ancient Medicine. II," by Bernard E. Read.

"The Influence of Diet on the Formation of Urinary Calculi," by H. C. Hou.

emphasis to the subject matter, but saving space and permitting the mention of nearly every drug item without unduly increasing the size of the book. The result is an unusually comprehensive work reflecting the modern viewpoints. It emphasizes the need of a knowledge of the chemical composition of drugs and directs attention to the examination of sublimates obtained upon pyro-analysis."

The Introduction treats of the evaluation of drugs and concludes by a key for the identification of powdered drugs.

Centennial Edition of the U. S. Dispensatory has just been published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. The present edition contains 1894 pages and lists 28,000 titles. The U. S. Dispensatory is well-known to every pharmacist, medical practitioner and chemist.

The Editorial staff is composed of Horatio C. Wood, Jr., Charles H. LaWall, Heber W. Youngken, Arthur Osol, Ivor Griffith and Louis Gershenfeld. Three generations of the Wood family have served as editors-in-chief on the U. S. Dispensatory.

It is hoped to make further comment on this, the 22nd edition, in succeeding issues.

Dixon Manual of Pharmacology. By WALTER E. DIXON, M.D., B.S., B.Sc., D.P.H., formerly Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacology, King's College, London. Revised by W. A. M. Smart, M.B., B.S., B.Sc., M.R. C.S., L.R.C.P., Lecturer in Pharmacology, London Hospital Medical College. Eighth edition, cloth, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 8 $\frac{3}{4}$, viii + 483 pp., 79 illustrations. Price, \$6.50.

Eighth revision of a British textbook known and used through the English-speaking world for thirty years. The new editor has completely recast the book, bringing it in line with all the recent rapid developments in pharmacological research. More stress is laid on a knowledge of organic chemistry. Clinical observations as to the effects of drugs have been specially noted. Prescriptions illustrating the practical application of the subject matter have been inserted as a new feature. Other valuable features have been added.

"Studies on the Vitamin C Content of Orange Peel and Its Pharmaceutical Preparations," by H. C. Hou.

"New Sources of Vitamin A," by Peter G. Mar.