

formula of official strength ointment, and enough water to make 100 Gm. of the product. The water content ranged from 100 per cent to 300 per cent. About 50 per cent of these showed no loss of water over a period of 25 days at room temperature even during summer heat. Several showed loss of water within a few days.

#### CONCLUSIONS

These observations have led us to conclude that ointments prepared with water-absorption bases containing fairly high amounts of water are sensitive to temperature changes. For this reason we believe that hydrophile ointment bases are much less suited to stock ointments than to those for extemporaneous use.

#### REFERENCES

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## Book Reviews

*The Squibb Ancient Pharmacy*, by GEORGE URDANG and F. W. NITARDY. 190 pages, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 7. E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York, 1940. Price, \$1.00.

This little volume is a catalog of a European collection of old drug jars, mortars, utensils, furnishings and apothecary shop fixtures, acquired by E. R. Squibb & Sons of New York in 1932. This collection is housed in two rooms on the 28th floor of the Squibb Building at 58th Street and Fifth Avenue, New York. The rooms are designed in the style of an old apothecary shop and are open to inspection by pharmacists and other interested persons. The catalog gives detailed descriptions of the old faience ware, glassware, mortars, pictures, books and documents. The text is well illustrated and contains many historical data which should be of interest to all pharmacists who take pride in their calling.—A. G. D.

*The Homeopathic Pharmacopœia of the United States*. Published under the direction of the Committee on Pharmacopœia of the American Institute of Homeopathy. Fifth Edition, revised, price, \$6.00. First Supplement, 50¢. The publications may be purchased from Boericke & Tafel, Homeopathic Pharmacists.

The Homeopathic Pharmacopœia is one of the books on drug standards named in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. It deals with the drugs and medicines used by the homeopathic practitioners and is prepared by the Committee on Pharmacopœia of the American Institute of Homeopathy and collaborators. The present members of the committee are T. H. Carmichael, M.D., Chairman; G. W. Boericke, M.D.; H. S. Nicholson,

M.D.; J. S. Stewart, M.D.; F. F. Massey, M.D. In addition to listing standards for drugs and medicines used in homeopathic practice, the volume also gives information relative to their botany, chemistry, pharmacy and pharmacology, also the preparation of dilutions and dosages. Pharmacists who are called upon to fill homeopathic prescriptions should provide themselves with the revised edition of this Pharmacopœia as homeopathic preparations must conform to the standards provided thereby.—E. G. E.

A reprint of *German Medicinal Plants, No. 8, 1938*. A contribution to the knowledge of the drug, *Herba Lobelia*, and requirements for its cultivation by DR. ISE ESDORN, from the Institute of Applied Botany, Hamburg.

The method of cultivation of lobelia is described—the flowering time in Germany is July to August and the harvesting season is near the end of the flowering time. The author states that the cultivation presents no great difficulties and the market price of the drug is satisfactory. The roots and seeds are described, also methods of analysis. The alkaloidal strength of the dried drug decreases some on storage—it dropped from 0.36% to 0.34% in six months.—E. G. E.

*Argyria—the Pharmacology of Silver*. By WILLIAM R. HILL, M.D., Instructor in Dermatology and Syphilology, University of Pennsylvania, and DONALD M. PILLSBURG, M.A., Associate Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology. Published November 1939 by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. Price, \$2.50, bound in cloth.

“The study of the pharmacology of silver in relation to the problem of argyria has been carried out