

exhausted. There is still a great need for psychic medicine, and those who select any branch of the

healing art as a calling will do well to maintain a tolerant attitude toward this type of medication.

## Book Reviews

*Practice of Allergy*, by WARREN T. VAUGHAN, M.D. Price, \$11.50, pages 1082, with 338 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1939.

This is the newest and most complete book on the subject of allergy. It contains 80 chapters dealing thoroughly with every phase of the subject. Take, for instance, the chapter on diagnosis which is typical of the thoroughness of which each phase of the subject is handled. In this chapter, history taking, testing and evaluation of findings are discussed. Detailed directions are given for carrying out all of the different techniques of testing including the less frequently used diagnostic procedures such as passive transfer, mucous membrane tests, patch tests, leucopenic index, elimination diets and the examination of nasal secretions. The botanical aspects of allergy are unusually well covered. The author has gathered and condensed all existing contributions to this field and has included atmospheric studies up to and including 1938. There are more than 100 photographs of plants, in addition to regional maps, charts and photomicrographs of pollen. There are four chapters on fungi and these are likewise well illustrated. Food allergy is given 138 pages and space is also given to drug, entomogenous, contact and physical allergies. The discussion of the therapy of allergies deals with all of the methods in use and summarizes the procedures used in allergic clinics throughout the country. The last section of the book is devoted to a systematic discussion of the major and minor allergic diseases—asthma, hay fever, migraine, dermatitis, urticaria, gastro-intestinal allergy, epilepsy, arthritis, otologic and ocular symptoms, etc. The pathology, diagnosis, prognosis and such forms of therapy as have not been touched upon in the other chapters are also presented. The closing chapters are a plea for the compilation of continuous life records of all persons, but particularly the allergies.—A. G. D.

*The Tools of The Chemist. Their Ancestry and American Evolution*, by ERNEST CHILD. 220 pages, 105 illustrations. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y., 1940. Price \$3.50.

This book has to do with the evolution of American chemistry in general and the tools used by the chemist. It represents a thorough documentary research on these subjects. The author has given a brief and interesting summary of the European background of American chemistry and has traced the early history of chemistry in this country. He has also reviewed the evolution of the apparatus

and instruments used by chemists during this period.

Part I deals with the pioneers and events in American chemistry. Among the persons mentioned are John Winthrop, Benjamin Rush, Joseph Priestley, Benjamin Silliman and Robere Hare.

Part II deals with the ancestry and development of chemical laboratory apparatus in America. It describes briefly the evolution of the balance, the history of the manufacture of glassware and porcelain, heating apparatus, metal appliances and optical instruments.

Part III deals with early American distributors of chemical laboratory apparatus.

The book is well illustrated, there is a good index and it will be found to be of interest to pharmacists as well as chemists.—A. G. D.

*Hydrocarbon Chemistry*. Reprinted from Transactions of the Faraday Society, 28, Part 8 (1939), 286 pages (806 to 1092). GURNEY & JACKSON, 98 Great Russell St., London, England. Price, 12s, 6d.

Hydrocarbon chemistry is considered under four main subdivisions. Part I deals with the homogeneous thermal reaction of hydrocarbons. The structure and energies of hydrocarbons are discussed. Several papers are presented on the mechanism of hydrocarbon reactions, particularly from the standpoint of Rice's free radical theory. In Part II, certain catalytic reactions are discussed. Part III deals with the mechanism of technical synthesis and the transformation of hydrocarbons. Papers on the catalytic high-pressure hydrogenation of carbonaceous material and the cyclization of aliphatic hydrocarbons are included. Part IV deals with the polymerization of olefins—dimerization, medium molecular weight polymers and high molecular weight polymers. The book is a notable contribution to our knowledge of hydrocarbons and should prove of interest to all organic chemists.—A. G. D.

*Micro-Diffusion Analysis and Volumetric Error*, by EDWARD J. CONWAY. 306 pages. Crosby Lockwood & Son, Ltd., London, England, 1939. Price, 25s.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part describes the apparatus and principles of diffusion analysis, and includes a discussion of the factors governing the rate and degree of quantitative transfer of the volatile substances, also a description of the pipettes and burettes used in microvolumetric analysis. The second part gives the directions for carrying out specific determinations, by the use of the micro-diffusion apparatus. The third part is a discussion of error in micro- and