

Book Reviews

DIGEST OF COMMENTS ON THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE UNITED STATES—(Eighth Decennial Revision), and on the National Formulary, (Third Edition), for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 1912. By Murray Galt Motter and Martin I. Wilbert, Washington Government Printing Office, 1914.

This volume is one, which, however valuable in other ways, is not, at all, true to its name, "A Digest of Comments on the U. S. P. and N. F.", because it contains so much matter foreign to its title that it seems but a cloak,—for a book, which really is a schedule of miscellaneous articles which have appeared in the press, without regard as to whether the subject referred to, was included in either of the volumes mentioned in its title. For instance, on page 76,—to open the book at random,—are found the following references:—

"Progress in Gas Analysis during 1911.

"Review of Progress in Stoichiometry.

"A Report on the Progress of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, etc.

"A Review of the Progress in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

"Progress in Pharmaceutical Chemistry during 1911.

"A Note on Sampling.

"The Various Analytical Researches on Ions.

"The Influence of the Solvents on the Rapidity of Reaction.

"Pharmacists and Physicians Have Been Entirely Too Lax in Demanding the Purest and Best Drugs in Combating Disease.

"Many manufacturers and physicians have not much use for 'adulterated,' they prefer the word 'technical,' which means the same and is not so harsh.

"There is more adulteration, and certainly more misbranding, among drugs today than there is to be found among food products.

"A brief discussion of the general topic of drug adulteration, for which the cure suggested is education and standardization."

It is difficult to understand how any of these references can be included in a book bearing the title "A Digest of Comments on the U. S. P. and N. F.", for none of them refer in any way to either volume, or to its preparations, and the same is true throughout the whole manual, page after page containing nothing referring to either book.

"The Digest of Comments" on the U. S. P. and N. F.", as originally planned, was one which should include comments, favorable or unfavorable, concerning the contents, make-up, processes, formulas, manipulations, etc., of these two important books, and a treatise, if worked out along those lines, would prove of immense advantage to the profession, but such comments, if they are contained in the volume in question, are so overlaid and covered up by extraneous matter that their value is entirely destroyed.

It is much to be desired that "A Digest of Comments," true to its name, should be prepared and kept up-to-date, as a help to all interested in the two volumes, and, at the same time, we trust we may be pardoned for suggesting that further issues of the pamphlet under discussion should be published under a title more descriptive of its contents.