

CAPSICUM IN GINGER ALE TO BE STATED ON LABEL.

Federal inspectors have been instructed to watch shipments of ginger ale coming within the jurisdiction of the Federal Food and Drugs Act to see that the bottles are labeled in accordance with the provisions of the law as outlined in Food Inspection Decision 177, according to a statement of the officials of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, who are charged with the enforcement of the law. That decision provides that if capsicum, which is the extract of red pepper, is present in ginger ale it must be declared upon the label. All interstate shipments of ginger ale found on or after March 16 which are not properly labeled in this particular will be seized, say the officials, and shipments from foreign countries will be denied

entry into the United States unless correctly labeled.

NARCOTIC DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT SUBJECT OF TWO NEW YORK STATE BILLS.

Two new bills relative to the treatment of narcotic drug addicts have just been introduced by Senator Salvatore A. Cottillo. One requires local health boards and officers to provide suitable places for the treatment and care of habitual users of narcotic drugs, the other makes provisions for the licensing of institutions where drug users are treated. The latter bill also makes provisions of voluntary hospital commitment of such unfortunates. Another provision of this bill is that a division of narcotic addiction and control be established in the State Department of Health.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A. J. van Laren: *Geneeskruiden en Geneeskruidenteel.* (*Medicinal Plants and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants.*) Publishers: Jacob van Campen, Amsterdam. In the *Artsenijhoff* (drug garden) of Amsterdam, the old *Hortus medicus*, medicinal plants have been cultivated, chiefly for scientific purposes, on a small scale for a long period of years. In later years experiments in the cultivation of medicinal plants on a larger scale have been carried out in this institution, not alone of domestic plants but also of such plants for which Holland was entirely dependent on other countries. From time to time reports on this subject by the author have appeared in the *Pharmaceutisch Weekblad* and at the request of Professor P. van der Wielen, who has written an appropriate introduction to the book, these articles, together with the reports of numerous other investigations, were published by the author in book form. In Part I of the book a general survey of the plants adaptable for cultivation is given. Part II deals with the cultivation of medicinal plants on a small scale in private gardens. One chapter is devoted to cultivation and propagation of plants growing on marshy soils or in water. In Part III general rules for the propagation of plants are given, the sowing of the seeds, transplanting seedlings and cutting of annual, biennial and perennial plants, also for the replanting of the developed plants. Part IV gives details of the cultivation of herbaceous, annual biennial, and

perennial plants, while Part V deals with the description and propagation of medicinal shrubs and trees. In Part VI valuable hints are given for growing plants for decorative purposes. In the appendix to this book we are told that medicinal plants are grown in Holland on a large scale in three different medicinal plant gardens, the largest having under cultivation as many as 60 varieties, the others having 30 and 20 varieties, respectively. It would be beyond the scope of this review to go into details of the publication. It is worth while noting to what high degree the qualities of plants, their alkaloidal contents, etc., can be improved upon by applying suitable fertilizers, by choosing the proper soil, etc. As to the question whether or not cultivating medicinal plants is a profitable undertaking, the author answers conditionally in the affirmative. This coincides with the view of other European investigators and also of many in our country, who, especially since the outbreak of the World's War, have undertaken the cultivation of medicinal plants for profit. The book contains detailed specifications for drying drugs both naturally and artificially, many diagrams and pictures of botanical gardens and an abundance of most beautiful photographic reproductions of growing plants, which for the most part are original. The typographical appearance of the book is both pleasing and tasteful. An exhaustive bibliography on the cultivation of medicinal plants adds considerably to the value of the

publication. The author is to be congratulated upon this excellent work which should prove to be of great help to all who are interested in the cultivation of medicinal plants.

H. ENGELHARDT.

Essentials of Pharmacy, with Questions and Answers. By Clyde M. Snow, Ph.G., A.M., Associate Professor of Pharmacy, University of Illinois School of Pharmacy; Graduate Instructor in Pharmacology, University of Illinois College of Medicine; Member of the Revision Committee of National Formulary IV and V, etc. Cloth; octavo; 734 pages. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1919. Price, \$5.00

In offering "Essentials of Pharmacy" the author states that he is influenced by observations incident to seventeen years of continuous service as instructor in pharmacy at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy; that the subjects are presented in the order originally outlined by the late Prof. C. S. N. Hallberg in a course in pharmacy. Admitting that cram methods in the study of pharmacy are to be frowned upon, he points out that investigation of some textbooks on pharmacy reveals such palpable padding with non-essential material, that there seems to be a field for a book which will get away from the ordinary quiz-compend with its lack of correlation of subject matter and the very exhaustive books which best serve as complete reference books on pharmaceutical subjects.

The publishers say that "'Essentials of Pharmacy' is a textbook on pharmacy arranged with questions and answers. This method of instruction is as old as Socrates and has never been improved upon. It is the most convenient arrangement for students in schools of pharmacy and for those who are preparing for State Board Examination."

The text matter, *i. e.*, the questions and answers, follows in logical sequence, covering the field of pharmacy in a comprehensive manner, and a copious index of twenty-seven pages adds value. The author has used judgment and thoughtful study in the arrangement of the subjects and prepared the questions and answers with a view to imparting knowledge. For a better understanding the student should have at hand a copy each of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary; unfortunately, many who seek to pass Board Examinations have only the purpose of passing in mind; study is incidental.

Arithmetical of Pharmacy. By A. B. Stevens,

Ph.D., Ph.C., College of Pharmacy, University of Michigan. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged. Price, \$1.50 net. D. Van Nostrand Co., 8 Warren St., New York City.

The Preface to the Fourth Edition recites that the book was originally written as an aid to students not having had the advantages of a college education, and answers were given to nearly all the problems. Since then it has come into general use as a textbook. Therefore, in deference to many teachers who use it, most of the answers have been omitted. The rules have also been omitted, with the hope that students will become more independent thinkers, instead of relying on the memory for certain rules.

Saturation Tables have been added. These tables were first prepared by H. B. and C. W. Parsons for the U. S. P. VI, and were retained in U. S. P. VII and VIII. Dr. A. B. Lyons and the author revised them for the U. S. P. IX, but later the Committee decided to drop them. The author considered these tables too valuable to be lost and has, therefore, brought them up-to-date. By the use of these tables many preparations may be made extemporaneously.

Year-Book of Pharmacy of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, comprising abstracts of papers relating to pharmacy, materia medica and chemistry contributed to British and foreign journals from July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919, with the transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference at its fifty-sixth annual meeting held in London, July 22 and 23, 1919. 12 mo., 519 pages, cloth. London: J. & A. Churchill. The price of the Year Book, to non-members, is 12 shillings and 6 pence.

The Year Book is always welcome in the Editorial Office. As is known, this annual corresponds with the A. Ph. A. Year Book, presenting in a very similar manner abstracts of scientific papers of general interest to pharmacists. The book includes the transactions of the fifty-sixth annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and also contains the Harrison Memorial Lecture, delivered by Francis H. Carr, F.I.C., in which the services rendered by Lieutenant-Colonel E. F. Harrison are outlined.

A Research List of four pages directs attention to drugs and chemicals that await further investigation; thus under Ergot it is stated that "a reinvestigation of the pharmacy of this drug in the light of recent chemical work is required, and a method of determining

the activity of the galenical preparations." (References are then given.)

The Editor of the Abstracts is J. O. Braithwaite; the Compiler of the New Remedies Section, Thomas Stephenson, F.R.S.E., and the Editor of the Transactions, C. H. Hampshire, B.Sc., F.I.C.

Bericht Von Schimmel & Co. (Inhaber: Ernst, Karl u. Hermann Fritzsche) in Militz Bez. Leipzig über Ätherische Öle, Riechstoffe u. s. w. April to October, 1916.

Bericht Von Schimmel & Co. (Inhaber: Karl u. Hermann Fritzsche) otherwise title as above for April-October, 1919; to April October 1918 and April to October, 1919.

These well-known monographs of Schimmel & Co. give a résumé of the scientific progress, research and information connected with essential oils during the periods given. Heretofore English translations have been published; we are not advised whether these will be continued. Strenuous times prevailed during the years for which these reports were issued, but it is remarkable that there was no apparent neglect of the investigations carried on, neither in volume nor thoroughness. The effect of the war is, however, discernible in the reports of manufacture and commercial transactions. A review of such portions or items as may be of interest for pharmacopoeial revision must be deferred.

Proceedings of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association of 1919. There is much of general interest in this volume of about 400 pages; of greatest interest, however, to pharmacists is the report of the Committee on Standards. The fact that the contributors are manufacturers assures reliability and up-to-date methods of determination. The report of the Committee is prepared by sub-committees to whom the following topics were assigned last year: Aconite, Plasters, Pepsin, Digitalis, Chloroform and Ether, Acetylsalicylic Acid, Nitroglycerin, Malefern, Glycerin, Alkaloids and Drug Standards, Diluents and Excipients, Scammony and Styrax, Glycerophosphates, and Hydrogen Peroxide.

Aside from the foregoing reports the Association considered the promotion of the National Institute of Drug Research, and topics such as Social Insurance, Legislative Matters, Drug Markets, the Future of Alcoholic Medicinals, Trade Marks and Patents, and Insurance Problems. There is real

instructive matter in the book, and it has been made serviceable as a book of reference by the comprehensive index and table of contents.

Some Personal Recollections and Private Correspondence of Dr. Crawford Williamson Long, discoverer of anaesthesia with sulphuric ether, together with documentary proofs of his priority in this wonderful discovery. 47 pp., paper cover, with full page picture of Dr. C. W. Long and other illustrations. By Jos. Jacobs, Phar.D., Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Joseph Jacobs, who in his earlier days worked as an apprentice in the pharmacy of Dr. C. W. Long, has paid a fine tribute to his tutor by the publication of this interesting memorial. The same author presented a paper before the A. Ph. A. on the discovery of ether, printed in Proceedings, Vol. XLV, pp. 315-322, and a paper by Charles M. Ford, on the Boston Ether Monument, read at the New York meeting A. Ph. A., is printed in the December 1919 Journal A. Ph. A., pp. 1034-1041.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Alcohol: Its Production, Properties, Chemistry, and Industrial Applications. C. Simmonds. 574 pp. Price, 21s. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.

Chemical Dictionary: Inorganic Chemical Synonyms and Other Useful Chemical Data. E. R. Darling. 12mo. 100 pp. Price, \$1.00. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York.

Chemical Dictionary: Popular Chemical Dictionary. C. T. Kingzett. 8vo. 374 pp. Price, 15s. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London.

Chemistry: Elementary Practical Chemistry. Part I. General Chemistry. F. Clowes and J. B. Coleman. 7th Ed. 8vo. 241 pp. Price, 6s. J. & A. Churchill, London.

Chemistry: Elementary Practical Chemistry for Medical and Other Students. J. E. Myers and J. B. Firth. 2nd Ed. Revised. 8vo. 194 pp. Price, 4s. 6d. Charles Griffin & Co., London.

Chemistry: A Treatise on Qualitative Analysis. Frank Clowes and J. B. Coleman. 9th Ed. 8vo. 400 pp. Price, 12s. 6d. J. & A. Churchill, London.

Chemistry: Industrial and Manufacturing Chemistry. Part B. Organic. A Practical Treatise. G. D. Martin. 5th Ed. 8vo. 744 pp. Price, 36s. C. Lockwood & Son, London.

Physical Chemistry: Introduction to Physical Chemistry. James Walker. 8th Ed. 8vo. 433 pp. Price, 16s. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.

Colloids in Biology and Medicine. H. Bechhold. Translated by J. G. M. Bullowa. xiv + 464 pp. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1919. Price, \$5.00.

Annuario per le Industrie Chimiche e Farmaceutiche—Anno I, 1918. Compiled for the Committee on the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries by Professors Nasini, Villavecchia, Cappelli and Meneghini with the collaboration of Doctors Fantacchiotti and Silvestri. Published by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor. vi + 555 pp. Tipografia Operaia Romana Coöperativa, Via Porta Cavalleggeri 7A, Rome, Italy, 1919.

American Pocket Medical Dictionary containing the pronunciation and definition of all the principal terms used in medicine, surgery, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, and kindred sciences; with over 60 extensive tables,

Edited by W. A. Newman Dorland, A.M., M.D., member of the Committee on Nomenclature and classification of diseases of the American Medical Association; editor of the "American Illustrated Medical Dictionary." 11th edition, illustrated. 4 × 6½ inches, 717 pages, full leather limp. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company.

Laboratory Manual of Elementary Colloid Chemistry. Emil Hatschek. Pp. 135. Price, 6s. 6d. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1920.

Laboratory Manual of Organic Chemistry. Harry L. Fisher, Ph.D., Instructor in Organic Chemistry, Columbia University. Cloth. Price, \$2.25. 331 pp. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1920.

Experimental Pharmacology. Hugh McGuigan, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. Cloth. Price, \$2.75. Pp. 251 with 63 illustrations. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1919.

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