

Denying that wholesale dumping of foreign goods was probable, the report declared if so it would "prove more of a blessing than a curse.

"Indeed most people would welcome such a blessed relief from the exactions of the home market," the report said.

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Handbook der Pharmakognosie* (Handbook of Pharmacognosy). By A. Tschirch. In two 4° volumes of pp. 1072 and 1625, respectively, with numerous illustrations in the text and several full-page plates and maps. Published by Chr. Herm. Tauchnitz, Leipsic.

It is now somewhat more than ten years since the first parts of the comprehensive work bearing the above title were issued, and although apparently brought to completion in 1917, owing to conditions caused by the war the final parts have only recently been made available in this country. With consideration of this unfortunate interruption of publication or distribution, it is particularly gratifying to know that so stupendous a task has ultimately been successfully accomplished, and it now seems opportune that a work on which so much time and labor have been bestowed should be brought more generally to notice, in order that it may receive the wider recognition and appreciation which it merits.

It would be quite impossible within the limits of time at the disposition of the writer, or the available space of the JOURNAL, to undertake a comprehensive review of a work of such magnitude, and all that can now be attempted is to present an outline of the general character of the work and some of its principal or distinctive features.

The first volume of the "Handbuch," which comprises 1072 pages, is devoted to general pharmacognosy, and under this title the following subjects are considered: Definition and aims of pharmacognosy; drugs and the history of those employed in medicine; the cultivation and collection of medicinal plants; trade routes in ancient and modern times; treatment of drugs at the port of entry, and the extent of their production and export; commercial sorts and methods of packing; pharmacognostical systems and bibliography; instruction in pharmacognosy; examination of drugs for identity and purity and their preservation; description of drugs; the auxiliary sciences, such as botany, zoölogy, chemistry, physics, geography and history in their application to the study of pharmacognosy.

The second volume of the work relates to what is termed special pharmacognosy, and

comprises 1625 pages. In this part detailed descriptions of a very large number of drugs are presented, and in the classification of the latter the author has departed from the usual custom, inasmuch as they are grouped according to what is considered to be their more prominent or important constituent rather than botanical relationships. In other words the plan of classification is based upon the chemical characters of the respective drugs. In accordance with this plan the subject-matter is considered under the following principal chapters with numerous subdivisions: I. Drugs containing carbohydrates; II. Drugs containing albuminoids. III. Drugs containing organic acids. IV. Drugs containing fats and waxes. V. Drugs containing odorous substances, such as the volatile oils or related individual compounds. VI. Drugs containing glucosides, including glucosidal resins. In connection with each subject the author has given very extensive citations of the literature and a comprehensive description of the drug, together with its morphological or anatomical characters and chemical constituents. A special interest is imparted to the work by its richness and excellence of illustration, not only in the text but also by means of many full-page plates and maps.

It may safely be stated that the subject of pharmacognosy has never before received so elaborate an exposition as in the work to which Professor Tschirch has devoted so many years of untiring labor. His long experience in the teaching of this branch of science has rendered him particularly well qualified to undertake the task which has now been so successfully completed, and the "Handbuch" will certainly long continue to be a repository of most valuable and interesting information for all who are interested in the subject of pharmacognosy in its broadest aspects or applications.

F. B. POWER.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Industrial Chemistry*, a manual for the student and the manufacturer, edited by Allen Rogers. 1208 pp. and index. D. Van Nostrand Co. \$7.50 net.

The new volume contains 1208 pages, exclusive of the index, as against 980 pages in

the second edition, and many new illustrations have been provided.

*The Action of Certain Esters and Ethers of Choline, and their Relation to Muscarine*, by H. H. Dale, M.D., F.R.S. Reprinted from the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*; "The Alkaloids of Quebracho Bark. Part I, The Constitution of Aspidospermine," by Arthur James Ewins, D.Sc. Reprinted from the *Transactions of the Chemical Society*.—*The Welcome Physiological Research Laboratories*.

*Practical Physiological Chemistry*. For Indian Medical Students and Clinical Assistants. By C. C. Caleb, M.B., M.S., Professor of Physiology, King Edward Medical College, Lahore. Cloth. Price, 6 rupees net. Pp. 252. Calcutta: Butterworth & Co., 1919.

The commonly used analytical methods are described, the relations of chemical findings to diagnosis are briefly explained, and other useful information is given in a condensed form.

*The Qualitative Analysis of Medicinal Preparations*. By H. C. Fuller, B.S., Chief Analyst, Institute of Industrial Research, Washington, D. C., ix + 132 pp. 5 × 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Cloth, net \$1.50. Publishers, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Summary of Contents—First Portion: Scheme of Analysis. Separation of Substances into Groups. Tables of Reactions of Anaesthetics and Opium Alkaloids. Second Portion: Analysis of Extracts, Tinctures, Elixirs, Emulsions, Tooth Washes, Gargles, Pills, Powders, Effervescent Preparations, Pastes, Ointments, Plasters, Digestives, etc. Scheme of Analysis for Rapid Detection of Inhibited Drugs. Reagents.

*An Introduction to Theoretical and Applied Colloid Chemistry*. By Professor Wolfgang Ostwald. Authorized translation from the German, by Dr. Martin H. Fischer, Eichberg Professor of Physiology in the University of Cincinnati. xv + 231 pp. 6 × 9. 45 figures. Cloth, net \$2.50. Publishers, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Contents: Fundamental Properties of the Colloid State. Colloids as Examples of Dispersed Systems. Methods of Preparing Colloid Solutions. Classification of the Colloids. The Physico-Chemical Properties of the Colloids and their Dependence upon the Degree of Dispersion. The Changes in State of Colloids. Scientific and Technical Application of Colloid Chemistry.

*Introduction to the Analysis of Drugs and Medicines*. An Elementary Handbook for the Beginner. By Burt E. Nelson, Chemist to the New York State Hospitals. xii + 384 pp. 5 × 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Illustrated. Cloth, net \$3.00. Publishers, John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Chapters: Introduction. Apparatus and Operations. Ultimate Inorganic Analysis. Ultimate Organic Analysis. Determination of Molecular Weights, Common Radicals, and Chemical Formulae. Drug Analysis. Assays of Chemicals, Crude Drugs, and Pharmaceutical Preparations. Pharmacological Methods.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*The Redistillation of Aqueous Distillates Resulting from Production of Volatile Oils*. By Emerson R. Miller.

*Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, Pharmaceutical Experiment Station*.

*On the Identification of Citric Acid in the Tomato*. By R. E. Kremers and J. A. Hall. From the Phytochemical Laboratory of Edward Kremers, University of Wisconsin.—Reprinted from *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, January, 1920.

*What Becomes of Salicylates in the Body*, including a brief survey of the manufacture and therapeutic uses of salicylic acid, its compounds and derivatives. Published by the Hayden Chemical Works. Contains bibliographical references.

*Proceedings of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties*, twentieth annual meeting, New York, August 25–26, 1919. Contains an excellent half-tone of Prof. James Michener Good, deceased, May 15, 1919, and a sketch by Dr. Henry M. Whelpley.

*State "Pure Drug" Laws Enacted Since the Passage of the National Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906*, with a compilation of food and drugs acts of the various states and also of narcotic laws, prohibition laws, pharmacy laws, weight and measure laws, advertising laws, insecticide and fungicide laws, sample distribution laws, stock medicine laws, and other laws relating to the drug trade, including acts of all legislatures to December 31, 1919. Compiled by the Proprietary Association and the National Wholesale Druggists Association. Printed in February 1920. The publishers render a valuable service by the compilation of the laws relating to the drug trade. The volume of about 700 pages presents a useful reference for legislators and legislative committees, as well as for those engaged in the lines regulated by the laws.