

the several chapters on the "common-sense" aspects of infrared by the editor. This book is not over-all a practical manual on infrared spectroscopy nor is it an effective introductory textbook; it is instead a valuable collection of authoritative information on the practice and use of infrared spectroscopy for the non-specialist in infrared. The book is recommended as an addition to the collection of volumes on infrared spectra which should be available in the laboratory.

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Food Chemicals Codex. First Edition. Prepared by the Committee on Specifications of the Food Chemicals Codex of the Food Protection Committee. National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20418, 1966. xv + 846 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$25.

The "Food Chemicals Codex" promises to develop an importance comparable to the "U. S. Pharmacopeia" and the "National Formulary" as a compendium of chemical identity and specifications.

As an activity of the Food Protection Committee, the First Edition was prepared under the direction of Dr. Justin L. Powers, assisted by various expert committees. Originally published as a series of loose-leaf parts, the present first edition appears in bound form. It is the result of approximately five years of organization and development.

The "Food Chemicals Codex" is designed to provide standards for food grade chemicals, and its status in this respect is established by an endorsement appearing in each book indicating that the Food and Drug Administration will regard the specifications in the "Food Chemicals Codex" as defining an "appropriate food grade" within the meaning of the Food Additives Amendment and regulations. The "Food Chemicals Codex" will, therefore, in the future serve the food industry and its various activities in the same way that the "U. S. Pharmacopeia" and the "National Formulary" have served the drug and pharmaceutical industries.

The first edition consists of over 800 pages of text embracing 518 food chemicals. As would be expected, the makeup is analogous to that of its comparable compendia for drugs. Following the specific monographs there is a section of general tests and apparatus which the quality control chemist will find extremely useful. The policy of the "Food Chemicals Codex" is that other analytical methods with equal or greater accuracy may be used, but that only the assays and tests described therein are authoritative.

The first edition recognizes that in order to keep pace with the use of chemicals in food continuing revision will be necessary. The Governing Board of the National Academy of Sciences has approved a plan for sponsoring the Codex through its next revision, scheduled for publication in 1971. During the interim there will be revision supplements whenever necessary.

The "Food Chemicals Codex" should be available

to every chemist who has responsibility for the manufacture, distribution, and quality control of chemicals which fall under the general category of food additive chemicals. It will serve as a valuable reference and text in schools and libraries.

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British National Formulary 1966. Published jointly by the British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London W.C.1, England, 1966. 356 pp. 11 × 17.5 cm. Price \$1.75.

The "British National Formulary" now is published in only one edition which combines the essential features of the former Standard and Alternative editions in order to retain the information required by both prescribers and pharmacists. Monographs which formerly followed the Notes for Prescribers are replaced with a listing of preparations and page references to the Classified Formulary section of the book.

Monographs in the Classified Formulary, the second half of the book, now have only English titles; synonyms and subheadings have been eliminated. Group headings also are in English. For example, the heading "Unguenta" has been changed to "Ointments," "Ear drops" replaces "Auristillae."

The "Infants Section" has been completely eliminated since so many preparations for children are those prescribed for adults but with a modified dosage schedule.

More conversion to the metric system is in evidence. Many minim dose preparations have been reformulated to a 5-ml. unit dose. Those preparations still using the Imperial system are now being converted for the complete adoption of the metric system which will be in 1968.

Staff review

The Condensed Chemical Dictionary. 7th ed. Edited by ARTHUR and ELIZABETH ROSE. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 430 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022, 1966. xxi + 1044 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm. Price \$17.50.

This is a newly up-dated version of this valuable reference and is vastly expanded over the previous (6th) edition. A great deal of information about a great variety of items has been so condensed to make a book both easily handled and extremely useful. This is an alphabetical listing of chemicals, drugs, materials, trademark names, and terminology with description or definition. A typical chemical entry provides a brief description of the compound, its properties, derivation, uses, grades available, containers, warnings, and shipping regulations. Items which are described in the "National Formulary," "United States Pharmacopeia," or "Food Chemicals Codex" are identified. Trademark names are listed with chemical identification, grades available, uses, manufacturer's name and address, and shipping instructions.

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