

## BOOK REVIEWS

*AMERICAN PHARMACY*. Edited by R. A. Lyman. Vol. 1, 2nd edition, 1948. Pp. 552, Figs. 200. Vol. 2, 1947. Pp. 379. Figs. 111. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and London.

This work has been produced in the main by about a score of professors of pharmacy, assisted by specialists on medical, veterinary, zoological and commercial aspects. Six advisory editors, a technical editor and an editor-in-chief have undertaken the final task of production. From this it will be seen that the two volumes constitute a serious contribution to pharmacy in general. To a non-American reader it is not so clear why the subject should be designated American pharmacy. Certainly the references to original English work are somewhat scanty and it would seem that the various authors were not able to consult English pharmaceutical literature as freely as that of the U.S.A. As an illustration, the chapter on the extraction of drugs, followed as are most of the chapters by references to original papers, gives about 20 references to historically interesting work up to 1870, but only one reference to English work, i.e. the continuous extraction apparatus of Self and Corfield (1930), now official in the B.P. The many papers on extraction published in the *Quarterly Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* during the last 20 years are not referred to. Volume 1 is divided into three main parts. Part I deals with Fundamental Principles and Processes. Among other subjects its 10 sections, starting with metrology, deal with the following: heat and refrigeration, purification and clarification, solution, colloids, emulsions and suspensions, extraction, bacteriological technique, preservation and packaging. Part 2 describes the various galenical preparations of the U.S.P. and of the N.F. These are classified in accordance with their chief characters, thus the mucilages, creams, glycerogelatin, glycerites and collodions are brought together. Emulsions form an important section and are treated very thoroughly with much valuable information on the newer emulgents. Part 3 of this volume is devoted to biologicals and describes the vitamins, hormones and endocrine glands, with a short chapter on other biological products, such as the antibiotics, penicillin and streptomycin, with a table of the lesser known substances. Volume 2 is divided into three main parts. (1) Advanced Pharmacy, dealing with such subjects as flavours, colouring agents, deodorants, solvents, parenteral preparations, and tablets. (2) Medical, Surgical and Dental supplies. (3) Animal Health Pharmacy. As is usual in recent American publications the volumes are exceedingly well, even extravagantly, produced. This work expresses a recognition of "the destinies of America as a teacher, administrator and adviser to the professional pharmacist" and thus represents a benign challenge to us all.

H. FINNEMORE.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

*BACTERIAL AND VIRUS DISEASES* by H. J. Parish. Pp. 159 and Index, E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., Edinburgh, 1948, 7s. 6d.

*THE U.F.A.W. HANDBOOK ON THE CARE OF LABORATORY ANIMALS* edited by A. N. Worden. Pp. XVI + 368, Balliere, Tindall and Cox, London, 1947, 31s. 6d.