

BOOK REVIEWS

tracings. It is unfortunate that the quality of the paper is poor and does not permit a reasonable reproduction of those photographs which are intended to display characteristic clinical features. In some instances the effect is spoiled by lack of definition in which important detail is not clearly visible. For those to whom the German language presents no difficulties the book is well worth reading; others may prefer to await a suitable English translation.

ANDREW WILSON.

BENTLEY'S TEXTBOOK OF PHARMACEUTICS, by Harold Davis. Pp. xiv + 1100 and Index. Fifth Edition. Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, London, 1949. 30s. net.

While welcoming the fifth edition of Bentley and recommending it to all students of pharmacy as an essential text-book, one wonders whether it is in fact possible to produce successfully in one volume, a satisfying account of the very numerous pharmaceutical phenomena, together with their explanations, descriptions of machinery and their uses, dispensing of medicines, surgical dressings, bacteriology, immunology, and pharmaceuticals even in 1100 pages. The numerous references to the original literature without which no modern text-book is of value, help in some measure to ease the path of the earnest student, but many of the less critical students will neglect the implied advice of the authors to read widely and the curriculum does not allow much time for work in the library. Having said this, in the hope that Dr. Davis and his collaborators will feel only partially satisfied with their efforts and from their wide experience and knowledge will be inspired in the near future to produce a series of volumes consisting of the sections of the present volume each expanded to a volume of its own, congratulations are extended to the authors for the accomplishment of a really formidable task and encouragement is offered to go even further. Such a work would help to meet the needs of critical students of whom there is an ever-increasing number.

The volume is well printed by modern British standards and is freely illustrated. Many of the illustrations are excellent but some of the photographs have not reproduced well and as sources of information the sketches on pages 489 and 490 would convey little to one not already familiar with the equipment concerned. The proof reading has been well done although the reference to chapter LXXVI on page 47 should read LXXVII. J. P. TODD.

ABSTRACTS (Continued from Page 731)

Escherichia coli, *Staphylococcus albus* and *Candida albicans*. Different media were used for different organisms, but the reaction was adjusted in all cases to pH 7.4. The concentrations tested were 2, 1, 0.2, 0.02, 0.002 and 0.0002 per cent. in 5 ml. of medium; this was poured into Petri dishes containing about 10 to 15 ml. of the corresponding medium. Each micro-organism was grown on these six concentrations, and on a control plate, the aerobes were cultivated at room-temperature, the anaerobes and facultative anaerobes were incubated at 37.5°C., the anaerobes in Brewster anaerobic jars. The amount of growth was compared with the control at intervals of 24, 48 and 72 hours. Growth of *R. phaseoli* and *R. japonicum* appeared to be inhibited after 48 hours, but some growth appeared in the lower concentrations after 72 hours; whereas *R. trifolii* and *A. chroöcoccus* were inhibited only temporarily by the higher concentrations, lower concentrations increased the amount of growth. No inhibitory effects were observed with the facultative anaerobic organisms or with the anaerobes.

L. H. P.