BOOK REVIEWS

"ANALAR" STANDARDS FOR LABORATORY CHEMICALS. Fourth Edition. Pp. 297 and Index. Issued jointly by The British Drug Houses, Ltd., and Hopkin and Williams, Ltd., London, 1949. 10s. 6d.

The name "Analar" is now so firmly established that the realisation that it is only of fifteen years standing comes as a surprise. The addition of 58 new items brings the number of monographs to nearly 300 and many of the older specifications have been critically revised. For example, it has been found that for some chemicals, improved analytical methods have shown that previous limits for impurities had been optimistically numerated; as far as possible, the quality of the reagents has been improved in order that the former figures might be retained and, where this could not be achieved, a higher but truer limit has now been given without, however, any actual deterioration in the quality of the chemical concerned. With an eye to the future, the authors have introduced the polarograph where this instrument is particularly suited to the determination of certain impurities. For the determination of water (or should we say "aquametry"?) in organic liquids other than acetone, the Karl Fischer procedure has been applied. Electrolytic deposition has been utilised for the cleaner separation of some metals prior to the determination of alkalis and alkaline earths and, in suitable cases, has been made to serve the purpose of assay at the same time. Refractive index and density are now recorded for a standard temperature of 20°C., save for the lower alcohols, where specific gravity at 15·5°C. has been retained. The book has grown from the slim volume we used to know into something approaching a textbook of practical analysis.

B. A. ELLIS.

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procedure is illustrated for determination of sensitivity and slope of the dosage-response curve. Individual rabbits appear to differ widely and characteristically in their response to a standard pyrogen and animals are chosen to minimise the variability of response. S. L. W.

Thyroid; Effect on Toxicity of Arsenobenzenes. A. Dybing. (*Acta Pharmacol. Toxicol.*, 1948, **4**, 333.) In an endeavour to find new methods for the biological assay of thyroid preparations, various substances have been examined with a view to establishing a possible effect of thyroid administration on their toxicity. This paper deals with the effect on neoarsphenamine and oxophenarsine. Experiments on mice showed that administration of thyroid powder increases the toxicity of both these compounds. In animals receiving thyroid powder in doses of 10 mg. the toxicity of oxophenarsine was found to correspond to an LD50 of about 0·02 mg./g., while in untreated animals it was about 0·03 mg./g. Similar results were obtained in corresponding experiments with neoarsphenamine. The possibility of using this effect as a basis for biological assay of thyroid preparations was studied, but the uncertainty of the method seemed too great. S. L. W.