

## BOOK REVIEWS

*MARIHUANA IN LATIN AMERICA*, by P. O. Wolff. Pp. 56. Linacre Press Inc., Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A. 1949. \$1.50.

The main purpose of this pamphlet is to examine the medical, legal and criminal aspects of the problems raised by the growth of addiction to Indian hemp. The use of the drug in the East has been recorded from the earliest times, but it has spread to the United States, Mexico, Brazil and certain other parts of Central and South America to such an extent that the total number of addicts throughout the world is estimated at 200 millions. In the United States and Spanish-speaking America the drug is known as marihuana, and in Brazil as maconha and under innumerable other local names. Unlike opium and its derivatives, marihuana has no medicinal value to justify its production and use, but addiction has been facilitated by the ease of cultivation of the plant, the simplicity of preparation of the drug and the low price. Those engaged in combating the menace of cannabis in Latin America will be greatly indebted to the author for this review of the problems. As Secretary of the Expert Committee on Habit-forming Drugs of the World Health Organisation, Dr. Wolff has brought to the work his wide knowledge and experience of the subject.

T. C. DENSTON

*BENNETT'S MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS*, revised by H. G. Rolfe. 5th Edition. Pp. xxviii + 276. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., London. 16s.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Bennett's book which have brought it to the 5th edition are continued in the new issue and the purpose of presenting to the medical student a concise account of the drugs, chemicals and preparations of the British Pharmacopœia is well fulfilled. Within this field it gives the descriptive data about pharmaceutical preparations which are generally omitted from textbooks of pharmacology. In limiting the preparations discussed to those of the pharmacopœia, however, the author has had to omit numerous drugs which are now of considerable importance. Among these are sulphadimidine, phthalylsulphathiazole, butobarbitone, amylobarbitone and papaveretum. In a future edition it might be advisable to include some of the more important preparations of the British Pharmaceutical Codex. The introduction, describing various pharmaceutical preparations, is very useful and could with advantage be extended. The descriptions of drugs and preparations are mostly compact and accurate and the brief notes on actions and uses should be of considerable revision value to the medical student. The strict adherence to official nomenclature in the text is commendable, but the inclusion of a glossary of synonyms and trade names would increase the value of the book to medical students. The text is remarkably free from typographical errors.

T. D. WHITTET