

## BOOK REVIEWS

*PHARMACOLOGY*, by Michael G. Mulinos. Second edition. Pp. viii + 466 and Index. Oxford University Press, London. 1951. 40s.

This book is a synopsis of pharmacological facts assembled in a tabulated form. Its main purpose is to afford to the medical student and practitioner a short manual of pharmacology. As such, it suffers from undue brevity and is difficult to understand without supplementary reading. The first edition has been revised by the simple expedient of interpolating extra pages, while retaining the original pages and page numbers. This has resulted in an unsatisfactory presentation. Too often sentences are guillotined in the middle, to be completed two or three pages further on, and a high percentage of blank pages appears. The book has not been brought up to date, which should have been possible with such a simple method of revision. For instance, the methods of biological assay for pituitary posterior lobe and digitalis are quoted from the United States Pharmacopœia XIII, although these have been superseded in the U.S.P. XIV published in 1950. No mention is made of the new neuro-muscular blocking agents, or cortisone, yet these are described in books published in 1950. The terminology is open to criticism, for instance, the terms "adrenolytic," "sympatholytic," "cholinogenic" and "adrenogenic," while the inclusion of the ergot alkaloids and some of the vitamins under "hormones" excites surprise! In spite of its faults the book should be valuable for revision and reference purposes.

G. F. SOMERS.

*HISTORY OF PHARMACY*, by Edward Kremers and George Urdang. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. xiv + 622 (including 30 illustrations). J. B. Lippincott Company, London. 1951. 60s.

In this edition, which is wholly the work of Dr. Urdang, owing to the death of Dr. Kremers shortly after the publication of the first edition in 1941, the original material has been revised and expanded by about one-third. Unfortunately even this enlargement has been insufficient to balance the disproportionate amount of space allotted in the first edition to American pharmacy as against European. Nevertheless it is reassuring to note the addition of a chapter on the development of pharmacy in Spain, an important subject most regrettably neglected hitherto by writers in the English language.

The book is divided into four parts, the first being concerned with the early pharmacy of the ancient civilisations. The second part (130 pages) deals with the rise of professional pharmacy in Europe, with special reference to Italy, France, Germany and Britain. In the last-named section the opportunity has been taken to correct one or two slips in the previous edition. Pharmacy in the United States occupies the whole of the third part and overlaps into the fourth, making a total of 277 pages. The last hundred pages are occupied by an extensive bibliography comprising over 800 references, a chronological table and a valuable biographical appendix. The revision of a book of this scope must have entailed an immense amount of careful work, and Dr. Urdang is to be congratulated on the highly successful result.

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