

## BOOK REVIEWS

*ORGANIC CHEMISTRY*, by A. F. Holleman, revised by J. P. Wibaut, translated from the 16th Dutch Edition by Samuel Coffey. Pp. xiv + 626 and Index. Cleaver-Hume Press, Ltd., London. 55s.

Holleman's *Organic Chemistry* is a textbook intended not only for students who have chosen chemistry as their main subject, but also for students of medicine and biology. The physical-chemical treatment of the subject and topics of a fundamental nature are discussed in connection with suitable compounds as examples rather than as separate subjects. The general chemistry of aliphatic, carbocyclic and heterocyclic compounds is described in that order, and substances of biological importance, such as alkaloids, purines, carbohydrates, sterols and vitamins are described adequately for a book of this type. For a student seeking to obtain a basic knowledge of organic chemistry the method of referring to other paragraphs when discussing the general methods of preparation and reactions of a group detracts a little from the book's value. The book is well produced, almost free from misprints, and of value as a reference work for students of pharmacy, medicine and biology. A. H. BECKETT.

*KOLORIMETRISCHE ANALYSE* by Bruno Lange. Pp. xxiii + 386 (including 105 illustrations and 18 tables) and Index. Verlag Chemie GMBH., Weinheim. 1952. Dm.23.80.

This volume, which is now in its fourth edition, reflects the growing interest in colorimetric methods of analysis within the last few years. Written essentially in monograph style, this latest edition will have considerable appeal to the practical man, despite the fact that the text is in German. The individual monographs are easy to follow and, although short, provide a nucleus of essential information, in a more or less standardised form. The reactions upon which the estimations are based are outlined, in so far as these are known; an indication of the sensitivity of the method is given and precise directions as to the practical procedure to be adopted are described. For those who require more detailed information a short, but up to date, bibliography follows each monograph. Numerous alternative methods are described, providing considerable freedom of choice in the selection of method to suit any one particular set of circumstances. A complete chapter is devoted to the description of a wide selection of commercial colorimeters and spectrophotometers, though the instruments described are for the most part continental models. A feature of special interest to pharmacists is the very much enlarged section of monographs which deal with the estimation of physiologically active substances, organic and inorganic, natural and synthetic; numerous methods are described for the colorimetric estimation of such substances in biological fluids. J. B. STENLAKE.