

appearing in the formulary under injections, has been transferred to a separate appendix.

The magnitude of the task of revising and producing a book of standards and action and use information on a scope even approaching that of the Codex cannot be appreciated unless one has been engaged in comparable projects. The Codex Revision Committee particularly, and all who contributed to the work of revision deserve the gratitude of pharmacists everywhere. While the Codex is designed especially to fill the needs of pharmacists in the British Commonwealth, it deserves wider circulation as a useful pharmaceutical reference book. The Codex Revision Committee is to be congratulated upon the high degree of excellence achieved in the Pharmaceutical Codex, 1954, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is to be commended for sponsoring its publication.

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## BOOK REVIEW

*GEHES CODEX*. Eighth Edition. Pp. xi + 927. Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., Stuttgart, 1953. D.M. 75.00.

The eighth edition (1953) of Gehes Codex, edited by George Otto, replaces the 1937 edition with its supplements published in 1938, 1939 and 1949. It is mainly an encyclopædia of German medical specialities, over 13,000 of which are tabulated in alphabetical order. The information concerning each proprietary product comprises the published composition, the purpose for which it is recommended, the form in which the preparation is issued, the name and address of the manufacturer, and also of the distributor, if other than the manufacturer. A few preparations not of German origin are mentioned, but only when they are marketed by a German firm; this policy was not quite so pronounced in the earlier editions.

The information given about each product is that supplied by the manufacturer without additional comment. Sometimes the full composition is stated, more often the active ingredients only are mentioned and occasionally the composition is not disclosed at all.

In the preface to this edition, there is a useful list defining international and other standard units for drugs in current use in Germany and mentioned in various preparations in the book.

The book has been deliberately limited to medical specialities; such preparations as cosmetics and pest and parasite controls have not been included. This comprehensive book will be of immense value to German pharmacists, but its use outside Germany will be somewhat limited as most pharmacists dealing with foreign medical specialities would prefer a volume containing a smaller collection of currently prescribed products from various Continental countries.

A. J. FAULKS.