

## Book Review

*THE QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF DRUGS.* By D. C. Garratt. Third edition. Pp. xiii + 925 (including Index). Chapman and Hall, London, 1964. 126s. U.K. only.

The appearance of the third edition of Dr. Garratt's well known book is timely. Concern that the standard of quality control of drugs should be maintained and improved has recently been shown both publicly and officially. Dr. Garratt is himself Chairman of a Pharmaceutical Society committee, the Science Committee (Pharmaceutical Analysis), whose efforts to improve both public awareness of and facilities for quality control of drugs are already showing considerable results.

The first edition of this book was published in 1937 and since that time it has been a source of knowledge for both the man on the bench and those who interpret his results. Reference to Garratt's book may not always tell you all the answers but it tells you a lot of them and is always a great help to morale in the difficult situations in which the pharmaceutical analyst sometimes finds himself.

The revised and enlarged edition now produced is correlated with the British Pharmacopoeia of 1958 and the United States Pharmacopeia XVI Edition. The book is in the main a series of monographs arranged alphabetically and covering 700 pages. The titles of these run from acetic acid to zinc, being in some cases the name of a particular drug and in others the name of a group. Examples are: colchicum, copper, cresol, halogen acids and salts, miscellaneous metallic compounds, phytomenadione, sulphurous acid. This arrangement is of value to those who become familiar with the layout of the book. For those who are not there is a good index. These general monographs are followed by a section on methods for determining synthetic organic substances not included in the general monographs. This is followed by sections on essential oils, and oils fats and waxes. The last 100 or so pages of the book are in the form of appendices on specific analytical techniques. These include: determination of alcohol, non-aqueous titration, tests for sterility, destruction of organic matter, etc. An appendix on interpretation of analytical results contains sections on slope ratio assays and sequential analysis.

Dr. Garratt and the team who have assisted him in the writing of this book are persons who have played a considerable part in the production and development of many of the methods described in it. As Dr. Garratt is himself, besides being President of the Society for Analytical Chemistry, the Chairman of its analytical methods committee, it is not surprising to find that many of the methods recommended in the book are those which have been studied and approved of by the S.A.C. The ultimate source of these and many other of the methods given affords ample assurance that they are the result of rigorous selection on severely practical grounds. References are given at the end of each monograph and appendix of the various sources used.

The book is well produced and strongly bound. It should be so, as it can be confidently predicted that it will be much used in close association with practical analysis on the bench.

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