

nell, Cleveland, O., and Andrew S. McCreath, Harrisburg, Pa.

These samples may be obtained of Thos. D. West, chairman, Sharpville, Pa. E. H.

NOTICE.

The regular monthly meetings of the New York Section will be held in the Chemical Lecture Room of the College of the City of New York, 17 Lexington Avenue, at 8.15 P.M. on the following dates: January 13; February 9; March 9; April 7; May 5; June 9. All chemists who may be visiting New York on the dates named are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

WM. MCMURTRIE.

NEW BOOKS.

SOAPS. A practical manual of the manufacture of domestic, toilet, and other soaps. BY GEORGE H. HURST, F.C.S. London: Scott, Greenwood & Co.; New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. Price, \$5.00.

Nearly half this book is devoted to the raw materials used in the manufacture of soap. This part is very comprehensive, containing even a chapter on water as a soap material; at the same time no space is given to technically useless descriptions of those fats and oils, which are but rarely used in soap manufacture, while the position of the commoner fats in the scale of usefulness is clearly stated.

Considering the admirable arrangement of this part of the work, it is to be regretted that it is not more accurate, especially in the chemistry of the fats, for though the author has inserted abundant simple formulas and equations, many passages show that the material has been hastily compiled from the various works on this subject; for instance, with a little thought the author would have avoided the erroneous statement made on page 117 that the proportion of solid fatty acids in tallow is *increased* by the addition of cottonseed-oil stearin. Again, lard is said to contain thirty-five to forty per cent. of stearin with small quantities of palmitin, while actually, as a more careful search into the literature of this subject would have shown, the palmitin in lard is largely in excess of the stearin. Such errors are common in works on this subject, but it is time that they were weeded out.

One chapter is devoted to "Soap Machinery," and another to the "Technology of Soap-Making." This subject, always difficult to treat in a manual, gives the novice a clear view of the principles and practice of soap-making.

In the analysis of soap the author shows himself to be entirely at home, writing from his own experience. Indeed, a single brief chapter of more use to the soap chemist can hardly be found anywhere. The practice of calculating the alkali combined with fatty acid as Na or K instead of the time-worn Na_2O and K_2O , is to be commended; for, besides being the modern and rational view of the composition of alkaline salts, it allows the fatty acid to be entered in the analysis as such, instead of as hypothetical anhydride, the total, on footing up the analysis, being only a trifle over 100, due to the acid hydrogen of the fatty acid.

A very brief chapter is given to the recovery of glycerine from lyes, and an appendix is added with the common specific gravity and hydrometer tables.

E. TWITCHELL.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Some Notes on Chemical Jurisprudence. A digest of patent-law cases involving cases. By Harwood Huntington, 260 West Broadway, New York City. Price, 25 cents.

Outlines of Industrial Chemistry. A text-book for students. By Frank Hall Thorp, Ph.D. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1898. xx+541 pp. Price, \$3.50.

Preliminary Report of an Investigation of Rivers and Deep Ground Waters of Ohio as Sources of Public Water Supplies, by the State Board of Health, 1897-1898. Cleveland, Ohio. 1898. 259 pp. with maps.

A Report of Progress of Investigations in the Chemistry of Wheat. By G. L. Teller. Bulletin No. 53. Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Fayetteville, Ark. September, 1898. 30 pp.

Report on the Investigations into the Purification of the Ohio River Water at Louisville, Kentucky, made to the President and Directors of the Louisville Water Company. By George W. Fuller. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1898. 4to. vii+461 pp. Price, \$10.00.

Digest of Criticisms on the United States Pharmacopoeia: Seventh Decennial Revision (1890). Part II, comprising abstracts of papers up to December 31, 1897. viii+146 pp. Published by the Committee of Revision and Publication of the Pharmacopoeia of the United States (1890-1900).

Chemische Technologie an den Universitäten und technischen Hochschulen Deutschlands. Von Dr. Ferdinand Fischer, Professor an der Universität Göttingen. Braunschweig: Friedrich Viewig und Sohn. vi+54 pp. Price, M 1.25.

Report of the Secretary of Agriculture. 1898. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1898. 60 pp.