New Books

THE QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF DRUGS, by D. C. Garratt (Philosophical Library Inc., New York, N. Y.). As its title indicates, this rather comprehensive summary of methods for the quantitative determination of drugs and elements in commercial preparations should serve as an excellent guide and reference for drug control chemists, clinical chemists, and toxicologists. The treatment throughout, with a few exceptions, suggests the most recent methods available and alternate techniques, giving the advantages and limitations of each. The usefulness of this volume could be considerably enhanced by inclusion of more illustrations of some of the special equipment necessary for the analysis.

The methods suggested for the determination of iodine in organic combination are obsolete and not very accurate. Several methods which have been published, employing the reduction of ceric sulfate, are far superior and very specific. The statement that lead cannot be separated from bismuth with dithizone is misleading. A quantitative separation of these two elements has been accomplished by Gant (V. A. Ind. Med., 7, 608, 679, 1938), which has been incorporated in some of the subsequent publications.

The method suggested for the determination of mercury in organic matter is very involved and not too sensitive. Methods are available which are very simple and sensitive to ± one microgram.

The colorimetric methods employing diacetylmonoxime or alpha isonitroso propiophenone for the determination of urea in biological fluids are superior to the old nitrometer or urease methods suggested by the author.

In general, the volume represents a very commendable piece of work.

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PRACTICAL TEXTILE CHEMISTRY, by J. W. Bell (Chemical Publishing Company, 259 pp., 1956, $4.75). The name is somewhat misleading as most of the book deals with the physical and chemical properties of wool and the processing of wool fibers. There is a short section near the end of the book on identification of various textile fibers, including natural and synthetic fibers.

The chemistry of wool and products used in processing wool are discussed, *i.e.*, soaps, wetting agents, fatty and petroleum oils. The various treatments given to wool from the raw product as obtained from the sheep to the completed wool yarn are reviewed. Experiments are given for each processing step as they are discussed.

It is a very good book for use as a laboratory manual in a textile school. The book attempts to cover each subject as if the reader knew nothing about the material under discussion. Methods are given for detecting errors in processing which lead to inferior yarns or cloth.

The book would seem to have little value however to most general readers of the Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society. There is a small section on soaps and oils, but all this may be found in the "Methods of Analysis of the American Oil Chemists' Society."

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