

## NEW BOOKS.

A LABORATORY MANUAL, CONTAINING DIRECTIONS FOR A COURSE OF EXPERIMENTS IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. SYSTEMATICALLY ARRANGED TO ACCOMPANY REMSEN'S ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. BY W. R. ORNDORFF. A. B., PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN CORNELL UNIVERSITY. D. C. Heath & Co. 12mo.

This book, printed on one side of the paper only, to leave room for notes evidently, contains directions for eighty-two experiments, beginning with "Fractional Distillation" and ending with "Alizarin." The apparatus used is as simple as the nature of the work will allow and the questions asked or indicated by means of an interrogation mark seem to be judicious. The directions bear evidence of having been tried carefully in practice. The absolute necessity for this would seem to be self-evident, but I venture to say that in very many books of the kind it has nevertheless not been done—so much the worse for the unlucky student who repeatedly endeavors to do the impossible because his authority is good. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that such books ought either to be put together conscientiously or not at all.

E. H.

THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SEVENTH DECENNIAL REVISION (1890). Official from January 1, 1894. Published by the Committee of Revision. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. Agents, P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1893.

The Pharmacopœia of the United States has become a book of considerable dimensions—602 pages.

The metric system has been employed throughout the volume, the solids by weight and the liquids by measure. Of the coal tar antipyretics, acetanilid is the only one admitted, because the others are either made by a patented process or their names have a proprietary right. Among the articles added to the Pharmacopœia I notice peroxide of hydrogen, convallaria, cocaine, hyoscine, sparteine, strontium bromide, and pepsin (1:3000). The terminal "e" is retained for chlorine, cocaine, bromide, *et altera*. Instead of writing chloride of sodium, or nitrate of silver, the committee make it sodium chloride, silver nitrate, and so on, putting the base first. In the case of the salts of iron and mercury this change involved the use of the respective

terms in "ous," and "ic" (ferrous and ferric, mercurous, mercuric); but as a matter of precaution they have retained "corrosive," "mild," "yellow," and "red" in the title of the respective mercury compounds; thus, "corrosive mercuric chloride," "mild mercurous chloride." Instead of the word, "official," "official" is now used.

The present Pharmacopœia contains 994 articles, ninety of those previously official having been dropped, while eighty-eight new ones have been introduced. Commercial ether and commercial chloroform have been dismissed. Arsenium becomes arsenum; aluminium becomes aluminum; creasotum is now creosotum. The work throughout is gotten up with good taste, well printed on good paper. The accuracy of the work is guaranteed by the high standing of the committee of revision.

ISAAC OTT.

---

#### NOTES.

*Immunity Against Disease.*—The following appears on the editorial page of the *American Druggist* for October 12, under the caption "Germ Nuclein," and as it contains matter of general interest to chemists it is reprinted here entire.

Recent investigations of Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, of the University of Michigan, into the principles of immunity and cure in the infectious diseases, as illustrated in his presidential address to the Section on General Medicine of the Pan-American Medical Congress, mark so remarkable a step in the progress of modern bacteriology as to compel most willing admiration for the man and his work. The artificial production of immunity from disease dates back to 1796 when Jenner first made known his discovery with reference to the prevention of smallpox by inoculations of a mild form of the infection. Since then the subject of immunity against disease has received most careful consideration from many of the most brilliant thinkers in the scientific world, until it is now regarded as a special subject of scientific study, while at the same time finding place in the schools of medicine as one of the special branches of study in that science. Pasteur, the eminent French chemist, has particularly distinguished himself in this field, and his labors have won for him with other honors that of election to membership in the French Academy. His success in the treatment of rabies by inoculating the patient with sterilized cultures of the pathogenic germ, has made his name known in all parts of the civilized world, though scientists are not yet prepared to