past mistakes. This is to be commended but should not be carried so far as to become prohibitive. The best results will be reached when good judgment and conservatism go hand in hand. Many will doubt the wisdom of the change made in the constitution itself, prohibiting any change, except by unanimous consent, in the methods of fertilizer analysis until an opportunity shall have been given all official chemists to try the same. This gives to any one member a power to delay action which many will think should be held by the majority alone. The appointment of reporters for two years, and associates who shall fit themselves to become reporters on the special lines of work, should meet the approval of all chemists and may be far-reaching in its results. The Secretary of the Association has not felt himself impowered to make any alterations whatever in the wording of the methods; and it is pleasing to learn that a special committee has been appointed to rewrite the methods and put them in creditable English.

There is a growing feeling in the Association that it is reaching the point where it can well enlarge its scope. In the past it has confined itself strictly to analytical processes, but the desire seems to be increasing for investigations along the line of availability in fertilizer and food material and to make more of a study of proximate constituents. General dissatisfaction is expressed with the present "citrate-soluble phosphoric acid," "crude fiber," "nitrogen-free extract," etc., and it is to be hoped that dissatisfaction will lead to renewed investigations. The Association has an additional and unlimited field of usefulness for itself along this line.

C. L. PARSONS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ACETO-ACETIC ESTER AND ITS DERIVATIVES. By PAUL H. SEYMOUR, M.S., INSTRUCTOR IN CHEMISTRY, LAKE FOREST UNIV. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, No. 910. pp. 147. Washington: Smithsonian Institution. 1894. Price 75 cents.

The rapidly increasing literature of aceto-acetic ester makes this volume of great value. The author has given brief abstracts of the articles that have appeared upon the subject of the bibliography from 1840–1891, "omitting what had no relation to aceto-acetic ester." The abstracts are clear, and full enough to

accomplish their time-saving purpose. Misprints are infrequent. On page 107, however, we find "uvitic acid" and "carbuvitic acid" instead of uvic acid and carbuvic acid. Excellent author and subject-indexes accompany the abstracts.

L. B. H.

REPORT ON THE EXTENT AND CHARACTER OF FOOD AND DRUG ADULTERATION, BULLETIN No. 41, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY. BY ALEX. J. WEDDERBURN. pp 64. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1894.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DAIRY AND FOOD COMMISSIONER OF OHIO. BY F. B. MCNEAL, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE OF NEW YORK. BY F. C. SCHRAUB, ALBANY, N. Y.

A COMPILATION OF THE PHARMACY AND DRUG LAWS OF THE SEVERAL STATES AND TERRITORIES, BULLETIN No. 42, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DIVISION OF CHEMISTRY. BY ALEX. J. WEDDERBURN. pp 152. Published by order of Congress. 1894.

There seems to be a growing interest among our legislators and among the general public in reference to pure foods and drugs. Many of the states and, in fact, a majority have laws making druggists responsible for the drugs they sell, requiring that only pure dairy products shall be sold, and placing a standard on commercial vinegar, but in most instances the laws have simply served to adorn the statute books. Much work has been done to arouse the public, and in view of the strict control exercised on adulteration in most other advanced countries, it is surprising that it has not met with more immediate success. The cause has undoubtedly been injured by grossly exaggerated articles claiming general impurity of all our food products, but enough adulteration, proved by actual analysis by competent chemists, is now coming to light to demand immediate enlargement and enforcement of our laws.

The chief records of recent opinions and analyses will be found in the above reports. Among the replies received by the special agent of the Department of Agriculture and recorded in Bulletin No. 41, will be found many statements by some of our best chemists. These are, in general, noteworthy for their conservative tone but, as a rule, each has had some form of adulteration come under his personal notice, and those whose duties have caused them to investigate the matter, give many examples of foods,