

We conclude with a quotation from the author's preface: "Knowing how contented, free, and joyful is life in the realm of science, one fervently wishes that many would enter its portals. On this account many pages of this treatise are unwittingly stamped with the earnest desire that the habits of chemical contemplation which I have endeavored to instil into the minds of my readers will incite them to the further study of science. Science will then flourish in them and by them, on a fuller acquaintance not only with that little which is enclosed within the narrow limits of my work, but with the further learning which they must imbibe in order to make themselves masters of our science and partakers in its further advancement."

H. N. STOKES.

INCOMPATIBILITIES IN PRESCRIPTIONS, FOR STUDENTS IN PHARMACY AND MEDICINE, AND PRACTICING PHARMACISTS AND PHYSICIANS. BY EDSEL A. RUDDIMAN, PH.D., M.D. 1897. New York: John Wiley & Sons. v + 264 pp. 8vo. Price \$2.00.

This is a book for the pharmacist, rather than a book for chemists, as the author states in his title-page. It is divided into two parts:

Part I details the principal reactions and physical properties of the medicinal substances most used in compounding prescriptions. It deals chiefly with solubilities and precipitants, changes of color, and behavior when mixed dry or rubbed up in a mortar. This part of the book is essentially a compilation from drug journals, and pharmaceutical and chemical works. The author has, however, confirmed many of the statements. The compilation has involved a large amount of work, and references have been given, in most cases, to the sources of information. The author does not tell us how many of these statements he has confirmed, but in some cases he records his own results, when they contradict the statement he quotes, leaving us to infer that he has found the rest of the statements correct as quoted. The substances are taken up alphabetically, and only the Latin names are used, which might with propriety have been followed by the chemical name. Another very important omission, which greatly lessens the value of the book, is that it does not give the degree of solubility of the substance in water, alcohol, or diluted alcohol. These facts are especially of service to the pre-

scriber. This omission, it seems to us, is the most serious defect in this part of the book, if we assume that the statements have all been confirmed. Without such confirmation, it would hardly be safe to trust to the accuracy of statements taken from the current journals.

The author has quoted freely from Watts' Dictionary as revised by Muir and Morley, Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis, and other standard authorities.

Part II consists of a list of 325 complete prescriptions, written so as to include almost the whole range of the substances mentioned in Part I, in different combinations, with critical and explanatory notes upon each one. This part of the book, we believe, is almost entirely original, and bears evidence of great care, and many of the comments are based upon a trial of the prescriptions in hand. These prescriptions and notes are supplemented by an excellent reference index, by means of which it is possible to refer to prescriptions containing any of the drugs mentioned, as well as to the nature of the other ingredients of the mixture. A useful table is appended, giving the effect of rubbing together equal weights of thirty-one solid organic substances, including most of the recently introduced synthetic compounds. As a whole, the book bears evidence of careful selection, conciseness, practical knowledge of the needs of the pharmacist, and systematic arrangement of facts.

In spite of the defect above noticed, we believe that this book is a valuable contribution to pharmaceutical literature, and a very useful one as well. If every young physician should study it carefully, those who have to swallow his mixtures would be much better treated than at present. Every pharmacist should have it at his prescription case and consult it freely.

E. H. BARTLEY.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF CHLORINE. PAPERS BY CARL WILHELM SCHEELE(1774), C. L. BERTHOLLET(1785), GUYTON DE MORVEAU(1787), J. L. GAY-LUSSAC and L. J. THÉNARD (1809). ALEMbic CLUB REPRINT No. 13. Edinburgh: W. F. Clay. 48 pp. 12 mo. Cloth. Price 1s. 6d.

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