

of charge, the notice not to exceed the space of three one-half inch insertions. We also desire to inform employers, companies, and corporations desiring the professional services of members of the society, that they may insert an advertisement to that effect, of the space of three one-half inch insertions in the columns of the Journal free of charge. The advertisements should be sent to the editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, Easton, Pa.

Respectfully,

H. W. WILEY,
CHARLES E. MUNROE,
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NEW BOOKS.

RESEARCHES ON THE MOLECULAR ASYMMETRY OF NATURAL ORGANIC PRODUCTS. BY LOUIS PASTEUR, membre de la Société Chimique de Paris, (1860). Alembic Club Reprints, No. 14. Edinburgh: William F. Clay. 1897. Cloth. 46 pp. Price, 1s. 6d.

In presenting this important paper in English translation the Alembic Club has rendered a valuable service to chemists interested in the history of the rise and development of fruitful scientific theories. The study of the phenomena of rotary polarization of organic substances has led to the discovery of most important peculiarities in the constitution of the complex compounds of carbon, and in this paper by Pasteur we find described in a simple yet masterly style the several steps which led him up to his first great generalization on the subject of optical isomerism. In the early 40's he became engaged in a study of the relation of the crystalline forms of certain tartrates to their observed optical rotations. In 1848 he was able to announce the isolation of the right- and left-handed tartaric acids from ammonium sodium racemate; this pioneer discovery was followed by others published at frequent intervals, all of which attracted much attention. In 1860 the Chemical Society of Paris invited Pasteur to deliver two lectures covering the matter of his investigations in this field. The lectures were given in semi-popular form and published in the following year. The Alembic Reprint is simply the translation of the lectures as given in 1860. The translator very properly calls attention to

the fact that later investigations have not modified the theories advanced by Pasteur in any essential particular, and further that they must be considered as paving the way for the able and fruitful hypotheses of LeBel and van't Hoff on the relations of asymmetric carbon atoms, published many years later.

J. H. LONG.

A HANDBOOK FOR CHEMISTS OF BEET-SUGAR HOUSES AND SEED-CULTURE FARMS. BY GUILFORD L. SPENCER, D. Sc., of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. First Edition. New York: John Wiley & Sons. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1897. x + 475 pp. Price, \$3.00.

This work is the outcome of the favorable reception accorded the author's Handbook for Sugar Manufacturers, and of the increased importance of beet-sugar manufacture in the United States.

In it are given short and easily understood directions for sampling and analyzing the raw material and products which the chemist of a beet-sugar house or seed-control farm has to deal with; many hints on sugar-house work and chemical control; and a very complete set of tables; all combining to make a handbook which cannot but be of service to the man of wide, as well as the man of limited experience. It is to be regretted that so many sugar-house managers think it economy to employ as chemists, men with a very limited knowledge of chemical theory and manipulation, but such is the case, and this handbook contains much that will prevent such men from going astray, as well as much to encourage further study.

I can endorse the author's statement that many so-called "undetermined losses" are due to errors in measuring, sampling, or methods of analysis. Throughout the book the author gives evidence of an appreciation of the difficulties in effecting chemical control—difficulties which the merely theoretical man is apt to overlook or underestimate.

EDMUND C. SHOREY.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON MINERAL OILS AND THEIR BY-PRODUCTS, INCLUDING A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCOTCH SHALE OIL INDUSTRY, ETC. BY ILTYD I. REDWOOD. London: Spon; New York: Spon & Chamberlain. 8vo. 336 pp., with 67 illustrations. Price, \$6.00.

The work opens with an interesting chapter upon the history of the subject, which is followed by a geographical and geolog-