

is in the case of salts, which are given under the corresponding acids or bases. After each empirical formula is given the percentage composition for all compounds containing only carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen. Then follows a list of all known isomers of the given composition, giving melting-points and boiling-points, references to the literature, and finally the volume and page of the last edition of "Beilstein" where the compound is described. The number of compounds included in the work is about 75,000, while the last edition of "Beilstein" includes only 57,000.

The usefulness of the principle used for registering organic compounds is so apparent that it has been adopted for the indexes of the *Berichte* and of Liebig's *Annalen*.

The literature is fully covered to the end of 1898, and yearly supplements are promised.

A few errors have been detected, but mostly where confusion exists in the literature and a critical knowledge of the relations involved was necessary to avoid mistake. Even such errors are probably rare and will seldom cause trouble in using the work.

The author complains that the failure to give empirical formulas, on the part of many writers, has added greatly to his labors and requests that such formulas be always given. In the opinion of the writer it would be a misfortune if this request should lead to the use of fewer structural formulas. The needs and advantage of the average reader are of greater importance than the time of the lexicographer.

WILLIAM A. NOYES.

THE URINE AND THE CLINICAL CHEMISTRY OF THE GASTRIC CONTENTS, THE COMMON POISONS, AND MILK. BY J. W. HOLLAND, M.D., Professor of Medical Chemistry and Toxicology, Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Sixth edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 49 illustrations. Cloth. Price, \$1.00 net.

This syllabus for the laboratory aims to guide the student in the chemical examinations that are of service to the physician. The methods are much the same as may be found in similar works, and, while in many instances they are well selected, they include certain methods that might better be omitted or replaced by procedures which yield results of clinical value. The brief text omits much information that would add materially to the work. It is particularly desirable to indicate more definitely to what use the results obtained by the various methods are to be

put in practice, even at the risk of adding slightly to the bulk of the text. Unfortunately misstatements are not infrequent and there is an unusual number of errors in the references.

E. E. SMITH.

ANNUAIRE DU BUREAU DES LONGITUDES, pour l'An 1900. Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 18mo. 800 pp. Price, 1.85 francs.

This handy little annual is, as its name would indicate, mostly concerned with astronomic data. The first three hundred pages are devoted to calendars, astronomic phenomena of 1900, data of all kinds concerning the sun, moon, earth, planets, stars, and comets. Then follow tables of various weights and measures, moneys, statistics of population, territory and mortality in different countries. These are followed by diverse tables, such as magnetic intensity in various parts of France; specific gravities of solids, liquids and gases; acoustic, optic, and electric data.

The scientific addenda contain a well-written article of thirty pages on "electric units," by A. Cornu; an essay of over eighty pages on "dynamo-electric machines" also by Cornu, concise but satisfactorily written, and a short essay on "the new gases of the atmosphere," by Lippmann.

Many of the tables concerning physical and chemical facts are incomplete, and do not give the very best, latest determinations. In general, the French determination only is given, whenever a datum has been determined by a Frenchman, and his value stands until some other Frenchman does it better. This may be very patriotic, but it is not scientific, or good sense.

Visitors to Paris this year will be interested in the statement that "The legal time in France is that of the observatory of Paris, and is that recorded by the dials *outside* the stations, the dials *inside* the stations being several minutes later, for purely administrative reasons!"

J. W. RICHARDS.

OPTICAL ACTIVITY AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION. BY DR. H. LANDOLT, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Berlin. Translated with the author's permission by JOHN McCRAE, Ph.D. London: Whittaker and Co.; New York: The Macmillan Company. 158 pp. Price, \$1.00.

This little book is a translation of the eighth chapter of the well-known Graham-Otto "Lehrbuch der Chemie," which has passed through several editions. This eighth chapter was contributed by Professor Landolt who is the great authority on