

The book is well printed and presents a neat and attractive appearance and will no doubt be found to be a source of much useful information.

S. P. SADTLER.

PAPERS ON ETHERIFICATION AND THE CONSTITUTION OF SALTS. BY ALEXANDER W. WILLIAMSON (1850-1856). Alembic Club Reprints, No. 16, Edinburgh. The Alembic Club, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1902. Price, 40 cents.

The study of the original, classical papers, which have been of epoch-making significance in the development of chemistry, cannot be too earnestly commended. The Alembic Club of Edinburgh is performing a valuable service in making a series of these papers easily accessible. The papers are published in a neat cloth binding. Previous numbers of the series, as well as the one mentioned above, may be obtained from the University of Chicago Press.

W. A. N.

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### INVESTIGATION OF THE PURITY OF CHEMICALS.

At the suggestion of Professor F. W. Clarke and others, a committee was appointed at the last meeting of the Society to investigate the purity of chemicals, especially reagents, as sold by dealers. It is a common experience that many articles marked "pure," "chemically-pure," or "C. P." are far from satisfactory, and it is believed by many analysts that the quality of reagent chemicals has grown worse instead of better in the last few years. At any rate the matter is of such importance as to merit investigation. The committee, which consists of Charles Baskerville, L. M. Dennis, W. F. Hillebrand, H. P. Talbot and the president of the Society as chairman *ex-officio*, is collecting data to show the extent of the evil of adulteration or wrong labeling, and requests information from all members of the Society who have had experience in the matter. This information should be sent to Professor H. P. Talbot, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston.

The committee will be glad also to receive suggestions as to the best means of practically correcting the present unsatisfactory condition.