

erally the case. A number of interesting problems are suggested by this line of work.

Finally mention may be made of the determination of the specific gravity of liquid and solid oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen at very low temperatures by Dewar (*Proc. Roy. Soc.*, 73, 251), and of the determination of the compressibility of these same gases and of carbon monoxide, between one-half and one atmosphere pressure, by Lord Rayleigh (*Ibid.*, 73, 153). Calculated from these results the atomic weight of nitrogen becomes 14.003, which differs from the generally accepted atomic weight, 14.04, by an amount greater than can be accounted for by experimental errors. The cause of this discrepancy remains to be explained.

NEW BOOKS.

THE PURIN BODIES OF FOOD STUFFS. BY I. WALKER HALL, M.D., Owens College, England. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1904. xiii + 201 pp. Price, \$1.50.

The book under consideration is a revision of the author's first edition of "Purine Bodies." It has been reissued, as the author states in his preface, to meet a popular demand. Several portions of the first edition have been rewritten, and the results of recent investigations included.

The greater part of the book is devoted to investigations undertaken by the author to obtain information as to the physiological action of purine bodies and their metabolism. The author has made estimations of the purine bodies present in the common food-stuffs, and studied their effects upon the metabolic processes in animals and man when introduced into the body subcutaneously or taken by the mouth.

A chapter on the action of drugs upon purine excretion is introduced, and an index and tables of analytical methods are appended.

A commendable feature of the work is the completeness of the literature references. The book is well written and remarkably free from typographical errors. The book should be of interest to all who are interested in physiological chemistry.

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