

most excellent. Perhaps some day, when our medical schools make much stronger entrance requirements, books of this class may be more satisfactorily used and appreciated. J. H. LONG.

THE URINE AND CLINICAL CHEMISTRY OF THE GASTRIC CONTENTS, THE COMMON POISONS, AND MILK. BY J. W. HOLLAND, M.D. Philadelphia : P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 172 pp. Price, \$1.00.

This book contains the usual routine exercises given to students of medicine in many of the institutions of the country. Ninety-four pages treat of the urine, 21 pages of the gastric contents, 37 pages of poisons and 20 pages of milk. The descriptions of the various reactions and tests given are in the main satisfactory, but in the discussion of quantitative processes the explanations are too brief to give the student any real understanding of principles. In explaining the Fehling and Pavy sugar titrations the author speaks (p. 60 and p. 61) of the necessity for quick work and prompt end readings "as the test solution on standing takes up copper and turns blue again." Doubtless the taking-up of oxygen is intended. To the reviewer it has appeared for years that most of our books for medical students attempt to cover too many topics in very brief space.

J. H. LONG.

APPLICATION OF SOME GENERAL REACTIONS TO INVESTIGATIONS IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY. BY DR. LASSAR-COHN, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Königsberg. Authorized translation by J. BISHOP TINGLE, PH.D. 12mo. vii+101 pp. Cloth, \$1.00. New York : John Wiley & Sons. London : Chapman & Hall, Limited. 1904.

In the introductory chapter the author speaks as follows: "The time has arrived when it is possible to formulate, for the conduct of some operations, a number of general rules derived from the enormous mass of experimental material which has accumulated, and, as a corollary, to develop considerably many methods which are in use for organic chemical investigations. It may be hoped that, in course of time, the blind, trial and failure process may be increasingly restricted, and this little book is offered as an attempt to systematize methods of work." The subject-matter is arranged in four chapters. I, Introductory; Fixation of Labile Hydrogen Atoms. II, Modification of Reactions. III, Improvement in the Conditions of Reaction; Overstrain of Reactions. IV, Influence of Neighboring Atoms and Atomic Complexes.

To a certain extent the book may be regarded as a digest of the

author's larger work on organic laboratory practice, the great variety of new methods there set forth being here, as it were, grouped under a few general headings, to show their logical connection with the underlying theoretical considerations involved. The subject is treated in a broad and comprehensive way, and attention is frequently called to points where further experimental data are needed. No one directing research work in Organic Chemistry can afford to be without this little book, for a careful perusal of its pages will not only show, in many cases, how a troublesome reaction may be made more efficient, or success obtained instead of failure, but it may also prevent the loss of much valuable time due to using, at the outset, an inferior process or one foredoomed to failure.

The work of the translator is, on the whole, acceptably done, and all organic chemists who do not read German should be grateful to Dr. Tingle for this service. In one or two places, however, the meaning is rather obscure. Thus, the opening sentence in the first chapter reads as follows: "All investigations in the domain of organic chemistry are based, in the firmest and most complete manner, on those parts of general theory which apply to the carbon atom, but only a comparatively small number of them retain these higher and more exhaustive points of view in the experimental portions of the work."

The book is neat and attractive in appearance, of convenient size, clearly printed with good type on a good quality of paper. Typographic errors are few. Only one is likely to cause any confusion in the mind of the hasty reader, and that is on page 25, line 6 from the top, where "phenylacetic" appears instead of "phthalylacetic."

M. T. BOGERT.