

being that the most satisfactory amount to add, whether in powder or in solution, is 0.2 g.

5. Urine cannot be satisfactorily digested, by any of the means mentioned in this article, in less than thirty minutes.

NEW BOOKS.

PRACTICAL TEST-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY. BY JOHN DABNEY PALMER., M.A., M.D.
New York: John Wiley & Sons. Price \$1.00.

This handy little volume of 190 pages will be useful to pharmacists and practising physicians. While the book does not by any means contain enough material to justify the claim made in the preface of serving as a "*safe guide for testing any substance presented for examination*" it will, nevertheless, be helpful to the analytical chemist in cases where the substance under examination happens to be treated by the author. The book is made up of two parts: Specific Tests and Tests for Purity. The first part contains identification reactions for many of the most important alkaloids, glucosides, bitter principles and synthetic remedies together with a few inorganic substances, like alum and ammonia. The second part contains directions for detecting adulterations in some definite compounds, like alcohol, chloroform, etc., as also in many other substances used either as foods, medicines or in the arts. A list of principal reagents employed is given in the book along with their methods of preparation. The book is supplied with an exhaustive table of contents and an alphabetical index which is very incomplete. The choice of material is not very evident. Many rare substances are included while substances of frequent occurrence are left out. Alcohol and chloroform are treated, but ether and benzene are not mentioned. Tests for butter, sausage, triptopine and several other rare alkaloids are given, but cheese, lemon oil and other important substances are left out. Borax and alum receive notice, but nothing is said about washing soda, potassium iodide or bromide. The specific tests are, as a rule, quite simple and easily carried out; in fact, the author purposely avoids complicated operations or special apparatus. Neither the polariscope nor the refractometer are used in the identification tests. Even the separatory funnel is replaced by a simple glass tumbler. The wisdom of such simplifications may well be questioned. The tests for some substances are quite exhaustive, while for others the tests are so meagre that even melting points are not stated. The directions given as specific tests will usually be found sufficient for the identification of pure substances, but those under the name of tests for purity will in many cases show only adulterations of the crudest kind. Phenacetin is treated in two different places, on pages 7 and 98, giving two sets of specific tests but no melting point is given in either place.

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