

Then, too, on this connection it might have been well to speak of Meyer's hypothesis that the development of a curara-action in the  $\gamma$ -series under discussion is to be referred to the "increased basicity" (basizität) of the quinivalent as distinguished from the trivalent compounds from which they were derived. Fühner's recent studies in the field of curara-action tend to support this hypothesis.

Another instance of insufficient treatment from the pharmacological point of view is seen on p. 92, where primary alcohols are dismissed with a few brief and colorless statements. Methyl alcohol is referred to as acting "to some extent in an exceptional manner" while in the case of the other members of its series pharmacological action increases in intensity as the series is ascended. Not a word is said about the highly interesting pharmacological properties of this alcohol, which fits only poorly into its homologous series as soon as we consider its pharmacological behavior from *all* points of view.

The formation of sulphocyanides in the body is a subject that is likewise treated in too fragmentary a manner, considering its theoretical importance.

Numerous other examples of a lack of thoroughness in the treatment of pharmacological questions might be cited. The book gives one the impression of having been compiled rather hastily and therefore fails to represent a high standard of scholarship in pharmacological research.

Treatises covering this field are needed for the English reader and it is to be hoped that our authors will present this subject in future editions in a more adequate manner.

JOHN J. ABEL.

**Determination of Radicles in Chemical Compounds.** By DR. H. MEYER, Imperial and Royal University, Prague. Authorized translation by J. Bishop Tingle, Ph.D., F.C.S. Third American edition, revised and enlarged. 12mo., iv + 218 pp. Cloth, \$1.25 net. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1908.

The third edition of this excellent book is welcome. It can be heartily commended to all organic chemists.

The text of the previous edition has been thoroughly revised and cross-references inserted to the new material. The latter is added in an appendix, which increases the total text of the book by about 35 per cent. and brings it as nearly up to date as is possible. In general style and make-up, the book resembles the earlier editions.

MARSTON TAYLOR BOGERT.