

Book Reviews.

ANALISI CHIMICA QUALITATIVE DI SOSTANZE MINERALI ED ORGANICHE E RICERCE TOSSICOLOGICHE. Ad uso dei Laboratori di Chimica in Genere, e in particolare delle Scuole di Farmacia. Del Dott. P. E. Alessandri. Seconda Edizione, intieramente rifatta. Con 14 incisioni, numerose table, e 5 tavole cromolitografiche. Milan: Ulrico Hoepli, 1901. Price, 5L (\$1.00). A 12mo of 364 pages.

The aim of the author in arranging this manual of qualitative analysis was to strike a medium between the cumbersome works on the subject, which are never easily consulted in the laboratory when one wants to refer to a reaction, and the tables of qualitative analysis, which in their brevity do not tell enough and leave many things to the memory of the chemist. He has succeeded in doing this, and, what is more, has given Italian students an excellent manual for preparation for practical examinations in analytical work. To those pharmacists who read Italian the book will be of undoubted value whenever they may be called upon to perform a qualitative analysis.

MANUALE DEL CHIMICO E DELL'INDUSTRIALE, Del Dott. Luigi Gabba, 3. a edizione, 12mo, pages vi-457. Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, editore, 1902.

This is a handbook of data intended for the use of chemists, students, manufacturers, etc. In general scope it corresponds to the Pharmaceutischer Kalender (Berlin, 1902), or to Biedermann's Chemiker-Kalender, 1901. A work of this kind requires a great amount of labor and ingenuity of condensation on the part of the author, and Dr. Gabba has succeeded in compiling one of the most practical and convenient helps to the chemist in his laboratory that we have seen. The Italian-speaking pharmacist in this country should keep a copy of this book on his dispensing counter for frequent reference.

The present third edition of the work has been revised and enlarged, especially as regards some of the special analytical processes.

DIE ROHSTOFFE DES PFLANZENREICH'S. Versuch einer Technischen Rohstofflehre des Pflanzenreiches. Von Dr. Julius Wiesner, o.ö. Professor der Anatomie und Physiologie der Pflanzen an der Wiener Universität. Zweite, umgearbeitete und erweiterte Auflage. Lieferungen 1-7, Svo, pages, 1,113. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engleman, 1900-1902.

This work, of which the first volume, pp. 1-795, and the first parts of the second volume are at hand, promises to be one of those magnificent encyclopedic compendiums for which Germany is justly famed. The task of editing such a work cannot be realized except by one who knows how great is the number of raw vegetable materials which are now employed in chemical and technical industries. The object of Wiesner's book is to give a complete treatment of the morphologic and microchemic characteristics of the vegetable materia medica. The book does not concern itself with the further fate of the vegetable drugs after they leave their native place and are ready for sale to the drug jobber or the industrial or pharmaceutical chemist, for this phase of the theme is a part of pharmacy and chemical technology. The most interesting part of the book, from the view-point of mere reading, is the introduction, in which the editor gives a general survey of the nature and scope of the science of raw stuffs. The first volume opens with a consideration of the gums. The physical and botanical characteristics of the gums in general are first considered; next their chemical constitution and properties; the process of formation in plants; their concurrence in the vegetable kingdom, and finally comes the consideration of special plants which give gums. Under each division the author considers such subjects as the geographical and topographical distribution of the plants from which the raw stuff under

consideration is derived, the methods of cultivating these plants, if any, employed by the natives or by planters; the methods of obtaining the gum from the trees, etc.; the time of harvest; the manner of gathering, the method of purifying employed on the spot; the different grades and qualities of the raw product which are found in the market; the differences between these grades and the manner of packing and marketing the product. In addition, under each substance considered its special morphological, chemical and microscopical characteristics are fully noted. Such is the substance of the chapter on gums, and we have given it merely as an illustration of the scope of the book, for the rest of the work is written on the same plan.

To the pharmacist or the industrial chemist who wants to know more than the Pharmacopœia and Dispensatory tell him on the subject of crude vegetable drugs, to the writer and investigator on pharmacology, pharmacognosy, etc., the present work offers a completeness of detail and a fullness of treatment which he would seek in vain in other treatises. The editor is therefore conferring an essential benefit upon the science of pharmacognosy in the compilation of this excellent work.

ARBEITSMETHODEN FÜR ORGANISCH-CHEMISCHE LABORATORIEN. Ein Handbuch für Chemiker, Mediziner, und Pharmazeuten. Von Prof. Dr. Lassar-Cohn, Königsberg i. Pr. Dritte, vollständig umgearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Allgemeiner Teil, Spezieller Teil Erster und Zweiter Abschn. Hamburg und Leipzig, Leopold Voss, 1901-2. 8vo, pages, 715.

The third edition of this well-known manual of technique for organic chemical laboratories has been enlarged and revised to meet the requirements of a number of modern chemical processes. The book has not as yet appeared in its entirety, only three parts being before us for review; but the character of the work is sufficiently well shown in these portions to judge the merits of the whole. Lassar-Cohn's book is not a manual for the beginner in practical organic chemistry, but for the advanced worker who desires a thorough and systematic guide in the technique of the intricate and tedious processes of organic analysis and synthesis. As a reference book it is invaluable to those engaged in research in this special field, as well as to those who are working in industries connected with organic chemistry.

HAGER'S PHARMACEUTISCH-TECHNISCHES MANUALE. Encyclopædische Vorschriftensammlung für Apotheker, Chemiker, Drogisten und verwandte Berufszweige, siebente Auflage Vollständig neu bearbeitet und herausgegeben von Dr. Wilhelm Arnold und Willy Wobbe. Ernst Guenther's Verlag in Leipzig und Berlin.*

With the laudable object of honoring the memory of the late Dr. Herman Hager, a number of his friends and admirers undertook the preparation of a complete revision of his "Manuale." The result of this co-operative work is now being placed before the public in twelve parts of about one hundred pages each. The first fascicle has just been published by Ernst Guenther. It begins with "Abstracta" and extends to "Physiologische kochsalzoesung." The work contains many formulas which are already classic, but it also contains a number which are not so well known and which may prove serviceable to those familiar with the German language, or even to those who have only a smattering of this tongue. The price of each part is fixed at 2 marks, about 40 cents.

*Hager's Pharmaceutico-technical Manual, an Encyclopædic Collection of Formulas for Pharmacists, Druggists, Chemists and Members of Allied Callings. Seventh edition. Completely revised and edited by Dr. Wilhelm Arnold and Willy Wobbe, with the assistance of a large staff of co-editors.