MANUAL OF CHEMISTRY. A Guide to Lectures and Laboratory Work for Beginners in Chemistry. A Text-book for Students of Pharmacy and Medicine. By W. SIMON, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore. New (fifth) edition. In one octavo volume of 502 pages, with 44 engravings and 8 colored plates. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1895

THE rapid issue of sucessive editions of this book is sufficient evidence that it meets the requirements of students and teachers. In the present edition the usual emendations and additions necessitated by the progress of science have been made. The special features, the colored plates of tests, which have made the manual always so noticeable among text-books on chemistry, are retained and improved. It is a satisfaction that the work has been so well done. Author and printer deserve credit, but we feel that the advisability of such methods of illustration is still an open question. A new plate illustrating the color-reactions of some of the important benzene-derivatives is added to this edition. The new spelling is not adopted for the reason, as assigned in the preface, that the Pharmacopeia has not used it. We regret that even such appropriate terms as glycerol and phenol are not regularly used instead of glycerin and carbolic acid. Many sets of questions are scattered through the work as foot-notes, so that the manual has applicability to the purpose of a question-compend. The fashion of furnishing questions in text-books is extending, and, while the protest may do little good, we must again express our disapproval of such methods.

The work has been brought up to date, is clear and accurate in description, and certainly constitutes an excellent compendium of chemistry. It is well printed, and much care and expense have been bestowed on the colored plates. The illustrations of apparatus are few and poor. In view of the importance of optical properties of organic compounds, text-books of chemistry should contain some illustrated explanations of the theories and application of polarized light.