

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

The Student's Course in Pharmacy. A Series of Lectures for the Use of Drug Clerks and Home Students in Pharmacy. By W. H. Watson. Nashville, Tenn.: Franc. M. Paul, publisher. 1890. 16mo. pp. 312.

Essentials of Practice of Pharmacy, arranged in the form of Questions and Answers. Prepared especially for the Use of Pharmaceutical Students by Lucius E. Sayre, Ph.G., Professor of Pharmacy and Materia Medica of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Kansas. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders. 1890. 12mo. pp. 179. Price, cloth, \$1; interleaved, \$1.25.

These two little works have made their appearance about the same time and are intended for the use of students, serving in the place of lecture notes, and as aids in reviewing the subject matters pertaining to pharmacy. Obviously, they are merely skeletons that may be utilized partly as a basis for studying theoretical pharmacy, but more especially for re-surveying the field previously gone over. They will both serve a useful purpose in the direction indicated, particularly if supplemented by as many experiments as can be made by the student with the means at his command. Suggestions in this direction might, we think, be incorporated, rendering the books still more useful than they will prove with the present scope. In some respects, a little more care bestowed upon the proof-reading would have prevented certain inaccuracies or inconsistencies; thus we find in the first-named work the plant names given indiscriminately with capital and small initial letters; and in the second work hydrochloric, instead of chloric acid is mentioned as an oxidizing agent, and the list of glucosides includes several principles not belonging to that class of compounds.

A Compend of Pharmacy. By F. E. Stewart, M.D., Ph.G., Demonstrator in Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Jefferson Medical College, etc. Third revised edition. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1890. 12mo. pp. 171. Price, cloth, \$1; interleaved, \$1.25.

This quiz-compend has come to hand since the preceding notice was written. The little work is similar in scope and object to the two preceding ones, and is now in its third edition, a former one having been noticed in this Journal four years ago. The tables for converting U. S. weights and measures—customary to metric, and metric to customary—issued by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Office, have been published in an appendix, and will be found useful for reference.

Commentar zum Arzneibuch für das Deutsche Reich (Pharmacopoea Germanica, editio iii), mit vergleichender Berücksichtigung der früheren deutschen u. a. Pharmakopöen, von Dr. Bruno Hirsch, Apotheker in Berlin, und

Dr. Alfred Schneider, Korps-Stabsapotheker in Dresden. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. 1890.

Commentary to the German Pharmacopœia with references to, and comparison with, the former German and other Pharmacopœias.

This promises to become a very useful and practical as well as thoroughly reliable work. It is issued in parts of 64 pages each, of which two are now before us; they indicate all the good qualities which, on former occasions, we had the opportunity of commending in connection with several pharmaceutical works of one of the present authors. The work now under consideration opens with an introductory chapter giving a brief account of the new pharmacopœia recently published, and of its general features. Next follows a survey of the changes that have been introduced by the new pharmacopœia, tables being given showing the remedies newly admitted or dismissed; a long list recording the changes, verbal and others, which have been made in the text; and similar lists showing the changes in the official reagents, the recognized maximal doses, the specific gravities, and in the poisons and powerful medicines which have to be kept with special precautions. The following chapter describes in a succinct manner the most important operations required for the recognition and examination of the different articles, beginning with specific gravity and the manner of reducing heavy liquids to their proper densities; the determination of the melting and boiling points, and a brief account of the strength and uses of the volumetric solutions and of the limits of certain important reactions. The commentary proper enumerates the pharmacopœial articles in alphabetical order, as they are contained in the Pharmacopœia, and after giving the complete pharmacopœial text, proceeds with the comments, first giving the chemical formula and combining weight, after which the process of preparation is described, the nomenclature is explained if necessary, and the pharmacopœial requirements for determining the identity and purity of the remedy are discussed, followed by other reactions if deemed advisable or necessary, and by remarks on pharmaceutical uses, precautions for preserving the remedy, and similar practical points. Vegetable drugs receive a similar treatment; following the text of the Pharmacopœia, we find brief accounts of the parent plants, of the preparation of the drug for the market, of the constituents, reactions, impurities, substitutions, etc.

The work will, without doubt, be carried to completion in the same excellent manner in which it has thus far been rendered; and it should be mentioned yet that paper and typography are in keeping with the contents.

A Text-Book of Practical Therapeutics, with especial reference to the application of remedial measures to disease and their employment upon a rational basis. By Hobart Amory Hare, M.D. (Univ. of Pa.), B. Sc., Clinical Professor of the Diseases of Children and Demonstrator of Therapeutics in the University of Pennsylvania, etc., Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. 1890. 8vo. pp. 632. Price, cloth, \$3.75; leather, \$4.75.

The author states that the object of the book is to provide the physician or undergraduate student of medicine with a reliable guide in the study of therapeutics, or the application of remedial measures for the cure of disease; and that it has been written because most of the text-books on this subject treat of it as if the student was already a skilled physician or experimental pharmacol-

ogist. The work is divided into four parts, of which the first discusses general therapeutic considerations, viz., the modes of action and of administering drugs; the dosage, absorption and duration of action of drugs; idiosyncrasy; indications and contraindications; and the combination of drugs for a joint effect. The second part treats of the various drugs, both officinal and unofficinal, which are arranged in alphabetical order of their English names, the salts being found under the names of their acids (bromide, carbonate, nitrate, etc.), except the preparations of iron, mercury, etc., which are considered in close succession. Under each head is usually found a brief characterization of the drug, its therapeutic properties and uses, and its administration, mentioning among the preparations also those of the British Pharmacopœia. Of the more important drugs, the physiological action is also discussed, more or less extendedly as their importance seemed to require, and in connection therewith treatment of poisoning, untoward effects, etc. In the third part, remedial measures other than drugs are described, such as *acupuncture*, cold, heat, venesection, etc.; also different foods for the sick, and diet lists for infants. Electricity, which would be looked for in this part of the work, has not found a place here, because its application in therapeutics has outgrown any work save one devoted to that subject alone. Part IV is headed "Diseases," and discusses the remedial and other measures available under varying conditions. Several prominent physicians have contributed a number of articles on diseases to which they have given special attention. A table of doses, an index of drugs and remedial measures, and an index of diseases and their treatment form the concluding portion of the book.

As will be seen from the foregoing, the field covered by the work is a large one, which has been well covered through the terseness and clearness of the statements. The care bestowed upon the book is also shown in the proof-reading, typographical errors being very few in number. Typography and the make-up in general are inviting.

Ointments and Oleates, especially in diseases of the skin. By John V. Shoemaker, A.M., M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, and Clinical Professor of Diseases of the Skin in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, etc. Second edition revised and enlarged. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis, Publisher. 1890. 12mo. pp. 298. Price, cloth, \$1.50.

This work is divided into two parts, treating respectively of Ointments and of Oleates. Each part opens with a comprehensive historical sketch of the introduction and use of the class of preparations, and of their application in diseases of the skin. More particularly are these subjects discussed in an elaborate manner in connection with the oleates, in the more general introduction of which, some twelve years ago, the author had specially interested himself, while Dr. Lawrence Wolff was experimenting upon their production, for pharmaceutical purposes, from the materials then accessible in the market. The book necessarily contains a large number of formulas, and Part I has been materially enlarged, as compared with the first edition, by the admission of the ointments recognized in the pharmacopœias of several European and American countries and by other authorities. During the printing of the book, the new (third) edition of the German pharmacopœia made its appearance, but has,

practically, made scarcely any change in this class of preparations, except that savine ointment was dismissed, and boric acid ointment was introduced. We should think that the comparison of the different authoritative standards would be greatly facilitated by printing their corresponding formulas together.

The work, in the preparation of which great care and extensive study is evident, will prove of great value not only to the practising physician, but also to the pharmacist, on account of the numerous recognized formulas and the many practical details which are of value in the manufacture of many of these preparations. It should be stated yet, that the work forms No. 6 in the Physicians' and Students' Ready-Reference Series of the same publisher.

The Physicians' Visiting List for 1891. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. Price, for 25 patients, \$1.

The present is the fortieth yearly issue of this useful Visiting List, the arrangement remaining substantially the same as has been found convenient in preceding years. The preliminary matter, including a number of useful tables, has been revised, and short instructions for the transportation of injured persons have been added. The list of new remedies for 1891 includes several older ones, like ethyl bromide, gurjun oil and pilocarpine, for which new applications have been found.

Pharmacographia Indica. A History of the Principal Drugs of Vegetable Origin met with in India. By Wm. Dymock, Brigade Surgeon, Bombay Army, etc.; C. J. H. Warden, Surgeon-Major, Bengal Army, etc.; and D. Hooper, Quinologist to the Government of Madras, Ootacamund. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1890.

It affords us much pleasure to announce the appearance of Part III of this valuable work, which constitutes the first half of the second volume. Myrobalans, cloves and other myrtles, colocynth and other cucurbitaceæ, and many drugs of the umbelliferae, rubiaceæ, compositæ and orders allied to the foregoing are described in the part now before us. Many of the drugs noticed are also used here, some have become obsolete with us, while a much larger number is but little known in the western hemisphere, or even in Europe. Thus, Persian sagapenum is unknown in America, and is seldom used in India; that which reaches Bombay is mostly exported to London. The asafetida known as *hing*, which reaches India, is all consumed in that country, together with a considerable portion of that called *hingra*; the *stony* asafetida, which has occasionally found its way to the western world, seems to be made, so we are informed, more for convenience of carriage than for deception, and the juice of the plant is sometimes so fluid that it runs out upon the surrounding ground and becomes mixed with the sand. In regard to cinchona, we learn that in 1885 a bark yielding 3 per cent. of quinine sulphate would have been worth 1s. 9d. per pound; at the present time the same bark would not sell for more than 6d. The historical, statistical and other information given in connection with each drug is of very great interest; but we confess that we were somewhat disappointed in not finding any account of ipecacuanha, and from this must conclude that the cultivation of the plant in India has not been attended with success, a conclusion for which we were, in a measure, prepared from the reports published some years ago.

Grasses of the Southwest.—Plates and descriptions of the Grasses of the Desert Region of Western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California. Part I. By Dr. Geo. Vasey, Botanist, Department of Agriculture. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1890.

This handsome publication contains fifty faithfully-executed lithographed plates, quarto size, of the grasses of the region indicated, and gives botanical descriptions of the species figured, together with information concerning special characteristics, the usefulness and the probable advantage to be derived from the cultivation of the plants as pasture grasses. A second part will complete the volume, and it is contemplated to publish, in a similar manner, illustrations of the grasses of the Pacific Slope.

Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium. No. III. Issued November 1, 1890.

The pamphlet contains about thirty pages, descriptive lists of plants collected by Dr. Edward Palmer in 1890, in Lower California and Western Mexico, and examined by Dr. G. Vasey and J. N. Rose. A full-page plate illustrates a hitherto unknown composite plant, which has been named by the authors *Coulterella capitata*, in honor of Professor John M. Coulter, the learned botanist of Wabash College.

Chloralamid (Schering) the new hypnotic, discovered by Dr. J. von Mering. Published by Lehn & Fink, New York.

A pamphlet of forty-seven pages, containing papers on the use of this compound, republished or abstracted from German and American periodicals.

Revue Internationale de Bibliographie médicale, pharmaceutique et vétérinaire, dirigée par le docteur Jules Rouvier, Professeur de clinique obstetricale et ginecologique, etc. Paris et Beyrouth (Syrie).

A pamphlet of 247 pages, appearing quarterly, and containing, systematically classified, the titles of essays on the above subjects, published in the different countries. A curious mistake has happened in the translation from the English and German of the titles of two papers on rosemary and oil of rosemary, the name of the plant being rendered in French *roses marines*, instead of *romarin*. Several other errors due to incorrect translation have been noticed; but these are insignificant in comparison with the faithful labor and evident care bestowed upon the collection and arrangement of the vast material. As will be noticed from the above, the publication is a classified index of the periodical literature, and aims at embracing all periodicals of the civilized world.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts. Boston: 1890. 8vo, pp. lxx and 457.

This publication contains reports and statistics relating to the quality of food, drugs, milk, ice, etc., supplied in Massachusetts.

First Annual Report of the State Pharmaceutical Examining Board of Pennsylvania, for the year 1888. Harrisburg: 1890. 8vo. pp. 91.

The official report was handed to the Governor of the State July 17, 1888; but the usual delay in the printing of official documents is the cause of its becoming accessible in print fully two years after it has been rendered. It gives a statement of the moneys received and disbursed during the year, and lists of the

pharmacists and qualified assistants registered in compliance with the pharmacy law.

The following printed Proceedings of State Pharmaceutical Associations have been received:

New Jersey.—Twentieth annual meeting. pp. 95. See August number, p. 428.

Ohio.—Twelfth annual meeting. pp. 126. See August number, p. 428.

Wisconsin.—Eleventh annual meeting. pp. 79. See September number, p. 475. The report of the State Board of Pharmacy, which is issued with the Proceedings, occupies 37 additional pages.

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