

REVIEWS, NOTES, ETC.

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We have received the first number of the new series (the third) of this journal. It is to be issued quarterly, and being well printed and containing much that is vitally important to all agriculturists, it should certainly be appreciated by all interested in the subject. We observe very interesting reports from the society's consulting naturalist, and also from the botanist; while the analyst exposes a series of frauds in feeding meals, adulterated samples of which seem to be very prevalent of late.

EXERCISES IN PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY; AN INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS, BY DR. W. R. HODGKINSON, F.R.S.E. London: George Kenning, Great Queen Street.

THIS is a little brochure in pamphlet form of 64 pages, giving the usual reactions and tests of the various metals and acids, and a few of the gases, with tables for quantitative analysis. It possesses no special feature, but is well and concisely put. Like many books of its class, it is, in our opinion, sorely deficient in a really systematic acid course, too much being left to the student's initiative in this matter. So far as qualitative work is an introduction to quantitative, then the title is correct, but we have looked in vain for any other attempt to explain quantitative analysis.

SUGAR REAGENT.—Matthieu-Plessy recommends the following as a reagent for cane-sugar, grape-sugar, and pyrogalllic acid: 54 pts. of ammonium nitrate are fused, and 34 pts. lead nitrate and 21 pts. of plumbic hydrate are added. The reagent melts at 105°C ., and with the substances named gives mixtures, having in the presence of glucose a cherry red, with cane-sugar a coffee-coloured, and with pyrogalllic acid a chrome-green colour. — *Am. Journ. Pharm.*

CHEMICALLY PURE SULPHATE OF QUININE may be distinguished from the commercial sulphate and the sulphates of cinchonine, cinchonidine and quinidine by a solubility test in a mixture of chloroform and petroleum ether. 0.2 gram. are briskly agitated with a mixture of 30 parts by volume of petroleum ether (sp. gr. 0.680) and 70 parts chloroform, filtering and adding 3 to 4 volumes of petroleum ether; in the absence of the other sulphates the solution will remain clear. An admixture of only 0.1 per cent. other sulphate will give rise to a precipitate or turbidity.—(E. Hirschsohn.)

SALT REGAL.—This attractive effervescent saline, which has attained a high reputation on the Continent, the Colonies, and India, is, we are informed, about to be energetically pushed in this country. It should do well, because it is an original idea, and has been certified by Dr. Paul and several other analysts as being perfectly pure in all its ingredients. It is the only attempt that has yet been successfully made to combine an aperient with an active oxidising disinfectant without decomposing the latter, and is, therefore, chemically interesting to that extent.

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