

intends his handbook of pharmacognosy to be a work of different character from any of these, of wider scope and higher aims, extending and deepening the scientific foundations of pharmacognosy, a field upon which Prof. Tschirch, assisted by his numerous pupils, has laboured for many years.

The author divides the subject-matter into general (or scientific) and special (or applied) pharmacognosy, and rightly insists that the former should be studied under a capable teacher at a properly equipped institution. General pharmacognosy is subdivided into two sections, the first of which deals with the problems of pharmacognosy, with the cultivation, commerce, history, and study of drugs, while the second treats of the sciences of botany, chemistry, zoology, physics, geography, history, &c., in so far as they directly relate to pharmacognosy. In the second subdivision of the work, viz. special pharmacognosy, each drug will be described separately, and, judging from the specimen issued with the first part, in the fullest conceivable manner, each account being a complete monograph of the drug. The grouping of these monographs is to be based upon the chemical relationship of the active constituents of the drugs which, it is hoped, will form a natural bridge to their therapeutical uses.

Comparing the scheme of the work with the plan of a classical English work on the same subject, the "Pharmacographia" of Flückiger and Hanbury, it will be seen that the chief differences lie in the separate treatment of general and special pharmacognosy, in the endeavour to base the grouping upon the chemical constituents, in the greater detail and in the extreme richness of illustration.

That the handbook of pharmacognosy will be one of the most voluminous and one of the most important works that has ever been produced on the subject cannot be doubted. The author's profound acquaintance with the anatomy of drugs is a guarantee that each description of the structure of a drug will be a masterpiece. The chemistry of drugs has also received his continuous attention for years; but whether our knowledge of their active constituents is sufficiently extensive to allow of the proposed classification being satisfactorily accomplished remains to be seen. The work contains the promise of rich stores of information, of abundant literary references, and of admirable illustration that will be invaluable to all who are interested directly or indirectly in crude drugs. HENRY G. GREENISH.

*Memories of Dr. E. Symes-Thompson, a Follower of St. Luke.* By his Wife. Pp. vii+195. (London: Elliot Stock, 1908.) Price 3s. 6d.

THE life of every physician who has attained and held for many years an acknowledged place in his profession necessarily includes in its scope something beyond his daily medical work. Some, like Sir S. Wilks and Gairdner in this country and Trousseau and Charcot in France, have left behind them a large addition to medical science, although now, with increased knowledge and specialisation, the clinician leaves a large part of the scientific field to others. Some, like Sir A. Clark, have been great teachers and public leaders in medicine; and others, again, without much of public recognition, have brought a detached and philosophic mind to bear on the problems of life and disease—and their teachings have exerted profound influence.

Dr. Symes-Thompson belongs to yet another class. A man of great industry, with ready insight and quick sympathy, the *practice* of medicine was his forte. To this it must be added that he was an earnest Churchman and one of the founders and a

Provost of the Guild of St. Luke, and that he was possessed of an energy and rare social gifts which gave him a leading place in every cause that he espoused. He was for many years physician to the Brompton Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, and was one of the first authorities upon the effects of climate in the treatment of consumption, and contributed many valuable observations upon the influence of climates upon chronic disease.

As professor of physic at Gresham College for a long term of years, he assisted in that extension and popularisation of medical knowledge which in this country has accompanied the advance of education. Dr. Symes-Thompson will also be remembered as a leader in life-assurance medicine. He succeeded in gaining the confidence of the lay authorities in life assurance, and did much to advance our knowledge in this branch of medicine.

The present volume of "Memories," recently published by his wife, gives a charming account of Dr. Thompson's personal and family life, in London and at his country house. It includes also many tributes of affection from colleagues and old friends, and cannot fail to be of interest to the large number of persons who were brought into contact with him.

*Wax Craft: All about Beeswax. Its History, Production, Adulteration, and Commercial Value.* By T. W. Cowan. Pp. 172. (London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co., and British Bee Journal Office, 1908.) Price 2s. net.

BETWEEN theology and bee-keeping there is apparently little connection. Yet whilst Luther and Zwingli were compassing the downfall of a Church, they were also preparing hardship for a rural industry. With the decline of Roman ritual the demand for candles and tapers slackened, and as a consequence the sellers of beeswax, whatever their religious leanings, had at least financial reason to mourn the advent of the Reformation.

Mr. Cowan touches on this and other historical matters in the introduction to his little book, which is devoted to a general description of beeswax. The secretion of the wax and the methods of "rendering" it are fully described, several illustrations of extractors and presses being given, with hints upon the best modes of manipulation. Refining and bleaching processes; the making of comb-foundation; distinctions between commercial varieties of wax; methods of adulteration and analysis, and the applications of beeswax in commerce, are all dealt with in turn; and the book concludes with a collection of technical recipes.

In some of the sections the treatment is too sketchy to be of much value to the technical reader. For instance, the chapters on the adulteration of beeswax and on the manufacture of wax flowers would not greatly assist the analyst or the modeller. Moreover, outside his own immediate province the author is not always a trustworthy guide—as witness the statement (p. 110) that paraffin wax is obtained by the distillation of naphtha. But the book as a whole is a useful one for bee-keepers, and is generally interesting.

C. S

*Educational Wood-Working for School and Home.* By Joseph C. Park. Pp. xiii+310. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1908.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

THIS book is intended primarily for use in the public schools of America, and it indicates for English readers to what extent manual training enters into the curriculum of such schools, and how the training in this branch of work is carried out. The book is