

edition. The authors have indicated by means of signs the part of the poison schedule in which each poison falls; this is an innovation which will be welcomed by retail dealers in poisons, in view of the exacting nature of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908. Since the last edition was published, new issues of various foreign pharmacopœias have appeared, and these have been utilised where necessary in the preparation of the fourteenth edition.

The "Organic Analysis Chart," which is published as a supplement, is intended to assist the analyst in the recognition of a number of organic chemicals, both natural and synthetic, used therapeutically. This chart gives the results of the examination of more than three hundred substances, and is the outcome of work conducted in Mr. Martindale's laboratory. It is a useful addendum to a book which is indispensable to practitioners of medicine and pharmacy.

#### A FISHERMAN'S TALES.

*An Open Creel.* By H. T. Sheringham. Pp. xii + 395. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 5s. net.

MR. SHERINGHAM'S contributions to angling literature are always welcome, and we are glad to find that he has published in book form—or, more accurately, has worked up with other materials into a book—some of his contributions to *The Field*. No one need hesitate to look into the "Open Creel"; they will find plenty of fish, some hundredweight and a half of trout, nearly as heavy a bag of salmon, and chub, pike, and bream by the stone. In the preface we are promised that we shall find no plethora of fish in the succeeding essays, and Mr. Sheringham would not have himself regarded as an over-successful angler; to the ordinary reader he certainly seems successful beyond the wont of fisherman, but success in angling, as in other walks of life, is seldom undeserved, and it is with interest that we look for its explanation in our author's own account of his adventures. This is to be found, we venture to think, in his persistency, and his advice to others is to persevere; he who would come home with a heavy basket must needs set forth "with patience and perseverance and a bottle of sweet oil," as the snail went to Jerusalem. Yet it was his oil bottle that so tried Mr. Sheringham's patience that it came within a little of ending an honourable career in the Coln at Bibury.

It would be invidious to select for praise any one essay in the book. "The Float" is excellent, so, too, are the accounts of "Some Kennet Days," and the obituary notice of "Two Colne Trout," and so are many others. Perhaps it is when he fishes for coarse fish that Mr. Sheringham is the best company; such fishing is a more leisurely pursuit, and leaves more time for contemplation and for those digressions into the byways of angling that show him at his best. Sometimes when dry-fly fishing he tends to become a mere compiler of lists of dates and waters, flies and weights of fish, yet he is never wearisome, and has a most amiable weakness for Wickam's Fancy. Did fly fishing give him leisure for contemplation, Mr. Sheringham might meditate upon the problem thus

presented; we cannot help thinking that a man's character should be reflected in his taste in flies, and that he who loves Wickam's Fancy must be a happy and contented soul and a good companion at the water's side. At any rate, we have found him good company in print, and recommend others to see if they cannot do likewise.

L. W. B.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*The Photography of Moving Objects and Hana-Camera Work for Advanced Workers.* By A. Abrahams. Pp. 153. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Ltd., and Dawbarn and Ward, Ltd., n.d.) Price 1s. net.

MR. ABRAHAMS has been known during the past few years as a very successful photographer of moving objects, especially those in rapid motion, and in this volume he describes his methods freely and fully. He illustrates his experiences with more than forty pictures, which are well reproduced, and these, if nothing else were known of Mr. Abraham's work, would demonstrate his right to speak with authority. After chapters on apparatus, exposure, development, and so on, he deals with the photography of railway trains, athletics, rowing, football, cricket, lawn tennis, horses, divers and swimmers, golf, common objects, winter sports, special subjects, and press photography, giving apparently all the practical details that can be given in a book.

It is of interest that Mr. Abrahams prefers pyrogallol with sodium carbonate and sulphite as developer, in spite of all the new reagents that have been introduced, and that he actually blames metal as the cause of a modified instead of a full success. He advocates swinging the lens when necessary to get better definition of details at various distances from the camera, and justifies his advice by means of at least one example. But when he says, "if you cannot swing the back why not swing the lens," he appears to support the common idea that the one is the equivalent of the other. There is, of course, the radical difference that swinging the lens moves the axis of the lens to a different part of the plate, while swinging the back does not. There is one other common error to which the author appears to lend support, when he says that the shutter-blind "should be really in the focal plane"; an obvious impossibility, because the plate itself is there.

*Der Sternenhimmel.* By Prof. J. D. Messerschmitt. Pp. 195 + xiii plates. (Leipzig: Philipp Reclam, Jun., n.d.) Price 1.75 marks.

THIS little book is another well-meant attempt to interest the public in astronomical phenomena by describing in simple language some of the results obtained by continued observation. The general appearance of the sky and the changes produced by the diurnal rotation and annual revolution of the earth about the sun come under notice. Separate chapters are added on parallax and aberration, the precession and nutation of the earth's axis, and the variation of latitude, which last seems a small matter to introduce into a work that can only aim at presenting the more conspicuous features. The several planets are described, their general appearance and motion, and a few remarks are added on comets and meteors.

In the section devoted to the stellar system, the usual information is given concerning double and variable stars, clusters, and nebulae, proper motion and the movement of the solar system in space. The ground covered is that with which we have been made familiar by many similar works, and it is not a little difficult to justify the appearance of another treatise