

mention is made of the more important commercial synthesis of methyl alcohol. The description of methylated spirits (p. 53) is inaccurate. Other errors noted are the formulæ of nitrolime (p. 98), phenyl isocyanide dichloride (p. 103), citric acid (p. 158), anthranilic acid (p. 318), while Liebermann is misspelt on p. 121.

Dyestuffs and Coal-Tar Products: their Chemistry, Manufacture and Application. By Thomas Beacall, Dr. F. Challenger, Dr. Geoffrey Martin and Dr. Henry J. S. Sand. (Based on Chapters appearing in "Industrial and Manufacturing Chemistry: Organic.") Fourth edition revised. (Manuals of Chemical Technology, 1.) Pp. xi + 168. (London: Crosby Lockwood and Son, 1926.) 16s. net.

THIS book forms one of a series of manuals of chemical technology compiled with the object of giving concise but sufficient information concerning the manufacture and utilisation of chemical products of great industrial importance. The first edition was produced during the critical year of 1915, when "the lack of an English book on the subject, the sudden stoppage of the supply of German fine chemicals, and the preparations of the British Government for the establishment on a large scale of the synthetic dye industry in this country, all combined to provide opportunity and justification for the appearance of the book." The authors were not disappointed in their object; the book met with a ready appreciation, and has now reached its fourth edition.

Within the limits of 156 pages a mass of valuable and accurate information is comprised dealing with: (1) coal tar and coal-tar products; (2) the synthetic colouring matters; (3) natural dyestuffs; (4) the dyeing and colour-printing industry; (5) modern inks; (6) saccharin and other sweetening chemicals; (7) modern synthetic drugs; and (8) photographic chemicals. Each of the eight chapters is prefaced by a list of the titles and authors of standard works on the subject dealt with therein, and contains a short historical or descriptive introduction, and usually also some statistical data.

In the preface to this edition the authors refer to the strenuous efforts that have been made since 1915 in Great Britain and other industrial countries to establish dyestuffs and allied industries on a scale commensurate with national needs; and they express the hope that this new position is reflected so far as is possible within the modest limits of their book. A critical examination of the new edition from this point of view is on the whole disappointing; many of the manufacturing processes described have long been obsolete, as, for example, the preparation of ketones (p. 22), of saccharin (p. 125), and of indigo (p. 51); and, further, no statistical data later than 1913 are included. But this book is evidently not written for the critical reader, otherwise the fairly numerous errors in nomenclature and formulæ that crept into the first edition could not have escaped correction in the fourth.

M. A. W.

Clinical Laboratory Methods.

A Manual of Clinical Laboratory Procedure: for the Use of the General Practitioner. By Dr. Robert A. Kilduffe. Pp. 287. (London: Henry Kimpton, 1926.) 12s. 6d. net.

It is regrettable that the value of clinical laboratory investigations is not realised by many physicians; anæmia is sometimes treated for months without a blood-count having been carried out; dyspeptics are rarely given a test-meal before necessity compels them to be referred to hospital or consultant, and many cases of nervous and mental disorder reach a comparatively advanced stage before lumbar puncture is performed. It is easy to find the reasons for this neglect. The average general practitioner has little time to spare for the laboratory, and expense frequently prohibits consultation with a pathologist. There are, however, many laboratory tests which can easily and rapidly be carried out by the practitioner himself. The object of Dr. Kilduffe's book is to indicate those which are likely to be of value and to assist in the interpretation of their results. There could not be a better manual for the physician who is willing to devote a little time to laboratory work.

Of particular interest are the chapters on the equipment of the laboratory and home-made laboratory devices, though the limitation of the use of such an instrument as the home-made colorimeter must be borne in mind. The arrangement of the book is that usually adopted for laboratory manuals; there are chapters on urine, blood, gastric contents, cerebro-spinal fluid, etc., in which the appropriate tests are described. Few individual methods are given under each heading, the object being to indicate only those most likely to be of value to the practitioner. The discussion of the results and their interpretation is valuable, but more stress might have been laid on the association of the presence of lactic acid with achlorhydria in the diagnosis of gastric cancer. The indexing is not very complete, but a list of common diseases and clinical conditions with suggested laboratory investigations will be a useful guide to the physician.

Laboratory Outlines in Bacteriology and Immunology.

By Prof. John F. Norton and Prof. I. S. Falk. Pp. viii + 114. (Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press; London: Cambridge University Press, 1926.) 10s. net.

THE matter of this small book is in strict accord with its title; it is a programme of work for a course of instruction in bacteriology, serology, and immunology. Few details of actual work are given, and the book is essentially one for the teacher and may be a helpful guide to him, though of course any teacher worthy the name will arrange his own courses of instruction. The sections seem to be well devised and to cover most of the problems of pathological and medical bacteriology, but agricultural bacteriology is scarcely touched. The contents conform with American practice; thus, we find no mention of "carbolic acid coefficients"