difficulties confront the writer. Many books of such a type, while apparently satisfactory to the technological student, are often to the works' chemist of less value and perhaps incomplete. This is mainly due to the unwillingness of manufacturers (very often for good reasons) to divulge details of processes which may be of indirect help to rival firms.

In the work under review it may justly be claimed that the author has collected together a great many practical details of modern glycerol plants and processes, especially in the sections dealing with the working of evaporators and stills. In fact, in no similar single publication, at least in English, can such a mine of useful information be obtained. The author has been extremely fortunate in having secured the valuable aid of various industrial firms, including still-makers, in the compilation of his data. In addition, as in the previous two volumes of this series, references are given to practically all the important related patents, including even those at present of no industrial significance, on the subject of glycerol production and application. A useful section on polymerised glycerol and glycerol substitutes is also included. In the final section the commercial valuation and analysis of glycerol and the various specifications for products of different grades are treated in a very satisfactory manner.

An exhaustive index for the three volumes is also included in the present work, with cross references. The complete work forms an indispensable reference treatise on the technical literature of the soap and delegent industry.

J. REILLY.

Practical Ultra-Violet Light Therapy: a Handbook for the Use of Medical Practitioners. By T. Clyde McKenzie and A. A. King. Pp. 108 + 14 plates. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1926.) 6*s.* net.

THIS handbook is for the use of medical practitioners; it contains a foreword by Sir John Robertson, the Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham, who is keenly alive to the part which this form of therapy is playing and is likely to play in the near future.

Doctors have now to know something of the technique of the sources of ultra-violet radiation, of the effects to which the rays give rise, and of the diseases which are favourably influenced thereby. The book under notice, in a restricted sense, provides this information; the authors write practically only upon their own experiences, and these appear to be restricted to the use of the mercury vapour lamp. They give an excellent account of these lamps, of the way in which they should be used, and of the diseases for which their use is warranted. We can understand, however, that many medical practitioners will want to know something about the open arcs which are largely used in many of the big light clinics.

Dosage in this form of therapy is still rather primitive; the 'normal dose' according to the authors may be taken to be "that which will produce in the patients' most sensitive skin surface the faintest perceptible erythema."

No doubt in time there will be established a physical unit of ultra-violet radiation which will be of service in medicine, and it is to be hoped that the interval will not be so prolonged as has been the case in X-ray therapy.

The American Annual of Photography, 1927. Vol. 41. Edited by Frank R. Fraprie and E. J. Wall. Pp. 238 + 54. (Boston, Mass.: American Photographic Publishing Co.; London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1926.) 1.50 dollars.

THIS well-known annual appears this year in a new form with a much larger page, which gives more scope for the considerable number of half-tone reproductions with which it is embellished. The text also is improved, for the articles are fewer, longer, and of more interest; and the developer formulæ are set out in a more businesslike and concise form than we have been accustomed to, a strictly comparative table for each type of developer being given on the basis of 1000 parts of water in every case. Mr. E. J. Wall gives a practical digest of the year's work in photography, which is fuller than such summaries generally are, including working formulæ in almost all cases, and with occasional valuable comments. Mr. Wall also contributes a historical article on the desensitising of plates, written with his usual thoroughness. Among the other articles of special scientific value is one by Dr. Wightman on "Photographic Sensitivity and the Latent Image," and one by Messrs. J. I. Crabtree and J. F. Ross on "The Recovery of Silver from Exhausted Fixing Baths." All these contributions mentioned have full references to the original sources of information appended to them, forming valuable bibliographies of the subjects.

An Almanack for the Year of Our Lord 1927: containing an Account of the Astronomical and other Phenomena, and a Vast Amount of Information respecting the Government, Finances, Population, Commerce and General Statistics of the various Nations of the World. By Joseph Whitaker. Complete edition. Pp. lvi + 896 + lvii-clxxxiii. 6*s.* net. Abridged edition. Pp. xlviii + 240 + lvii-clxxxv. Paper, 1*s.* 6*d.* net. (London: J. Whitaker and Sons, Ltd., 1927.)

THE new edition of 'Whitaker' has undergone some rearrangement and contains several new features, but its familiar appearance and convenient form remain unchanged. Among the new features are fifty-seven short articles dealing with questions of the day so varied as betting, Kent coalfields, polar flights, and war debts; a summary of science and invention, art, music, and the drama during the year, and details of meteorological conditions in June, July, August, and September for half a century. The statistical information about all states of the world is given as usual. The 'abridged edition' now takes the place of the 'popular edition,' which is discontinued. It contains not a selection but an abridgment of the contents of the larger volume, and is a marvel of value at the price.