

Poisons Law

a Guide to the Provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Acts 1852 to 1933 and the Dangerous Drugs Acts 1920 to 1932 for the use of Pharmacists and others concerned with Transactions in Drugs and Poisons. By Hugh N. Linstead. With a Chapter upon the International Background of Dangerous Drugs Legislation, by Sir Malcolm Delevingne. Pp. vi+448. (London: The Pharmaceutical Press, 1936.) 5s. net.

THE Act of 1933 made drastic changes in poisons law, and the Poisons List and Poisons Rules, issued by the Secretary of State on the advice of the Poisons Board, have brought complications and liabilities to all concerned, in whatever way, with transactions in poisons. The List, excluding esters and salts, approaches 200 entries, some covering ranges or groups of substances; the rules number 33, and 12 schedules are appended. Fortunately, this review is not concerned with the List or Rules as such, but only with the way in which the author explains and amplifies them. They appear involved and interdependent and it is obviously desirable to have them co-ordinated and explained for the assistance of those who are primarily concerned with their practical application. No one is more fitted to do this than he who is the Secretary of the Society which has been concerned with the administration of each Act dealing with poisons in Great Britain, and who is a member of the Poisons Board set up under the latest Act. He has dealt with the subject from the practical point of view and after discussing the question of labelling, he shows the application of the rules to, respectively, retail pharmacy, listed sellers, laboratories, manufacturers and wholesalers, medical practitioners (including dentists and veterinary surgeons), hospitals and manufacturers of animal medicines. In spite of the complexity of the subject and of certain essential repetitions, he has been able to compress these aspects to, respectively, 14, 7, 2, 11, 5, 6 and 2 pages of conveniently large print.

Nothing but praise can be given for completeness, conciseness and clarity. A few *ex cathedra* interpretations are given, and since it may be assumed that these express the attitude of the Pharmaceutical Society, they will probably be acted upon and become standard practice. The paraphrase on p. 98 of the proviso to Rule 23 (2) must be criticized, since it appears to deny completely to a shelf a storage function which the proviso only conditionally restricts. The book concludes with a useful list of poisons and substances containing poisons, with an indication of the special restrictions applying to each. J. R. N.

Alternating-Current Machines

By A. F. Puchstein and Prof. T. C. Lloyd. Pp. viii+582. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1936.) 25s. net.

IN the preface the authors state that the time devoted in technical colleges to the study of alternating current machines varies between wide limits. It is stated that a definite text-book is chosen and

the syllabus is constructed from it. Granting this, it is of great importance that the text-book be comprehensive and thorough. The present volume is a treatise which covers a very wide ground. The authors admit that only a fraction of the material in the book can be studied in the classroom.

We think that, from the training point of view, the treatise would have been much more useful if it had been cut down considerably. Considering the many subjects which electrical students have to study nowadays, and that only a small number of them will take up seriously machine design and operation in their profession, it would have been better for the greater number of students if the authors had discussed only a few typical machines. The treatment is on orthodox lines and will be easily understood by the technical student. Many examples are given, but it would have helped those who try them to have had the answers given and to have more of them worked out.

Die menschlichen Rassen:

eine popularwissenschaftliche Einführung in die Grundprobleme der Rassenlehre. Von Dr. Rudolf Lämmel. Pp. xv+283+48 plates. (Zürich: Jean Christophe Verlag, 1936.) 7 francs.

THIS clearly written treatise on human races belongs to the polemical class of literature, being more concerned in rectifying the errors of German professors than in laying before its readers a scientific presentation of modern ethnology. Readers can best judge of its scientific worth by noting the classification applied to men of the European type. It is proposed to divide them into thirteen races: these are Nordic, Baltic, Alpine, Dinaric, Armenian, the "Faelischen", Turanians, Mediterraneans, Orientals, Indides, Veddahs, Ainos, Polynesians.

The first essential of a classification of objects of any kind is that its groups must be capable of identification and that there is some degree of unity in the total assemblage. The classification in this book breaks these elementary requirements. A. K.

Motivation of Behavior:

the Fundamental Determinants of Human and Animal Activity. By Prof. P. T. Young. Pp. xviii+562. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1936.) 20s. net.

THIS is a very interesting and sound psychological account of the mainsprings of conduct under the caption of the motivation of behaviour. The work is well developed and well balanced, the evidence clearly put and the argument logically advanced. The author gives his own position by stating that the mind and the brain are one and the same reality, and that motivation is a process of arousing movement by physical energy transformations which are concurrent with behaviour.

At the end of the book is a collection of questions on each chapter—to anyone who has the energy and time to answer these questions seriously they cannot fail to be a great boon. We wish it was a usual practice.