

Remington's Practice of Pharmacy

A Treatise on the Preparing, Standardizing and Dispensing of Official, Unofficial and Extemporaneous Pharmaceutical Products, with Descriptions of Medicinal Substances, their Properties, Uses and Doses. Tenth edition, by Dr. E. Fullerton Cook and Dr. Eric W. Martin. Pp. xii+1616. (Easton, Pa.: Mack Publishing Co., 1951.) n.p.

THIS is a new edition of a standard work, one of the editors being Dr. Fullerton Cook, who was chairman of the Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopeia of the United States for thirty years. It deals with the whole art and science of pharmacy, as it is practised in the United States. After a general section on such themes as history and ethics, it describes the technical operations used in the laboratory and the factory. About eight hundred pages are devoted to descriptions of the substances and preparations used as drugs, including all those which are official in the United States and many unofficial ones. This edition includes valuable sections on the uses of drugs contributed by Prof. L. S. Goodman, of Salt Lake City.

The field covered is reasonably up to date, but it is curious to note how American practice differs in details from British practice; for example, the list of antihistamines contains more than fifty preparations, but promethazine does not appear to be mentioned even under the guise of some other name. The section on testing and analysis contains an interesting article on statistics by Lila F. Knudsen. There are sections on the laws governing pharmacy, on professional details such as furniture, first aid and contraceptives, on business methods, on the art of perfumery and the treatment of poisoning.

This bulky book appears to contain almost all that the American pharmacist needs to know. Ten editions have appeared at irregular intervals during sixty-five years, and the last interval was only three years. The book evidently continues to serve a useful function after all this time. J. H. G.

Physical Chemistry, Experimental and Theoretical
An Introductory Text-book. By Dr. G. Van Praagh. Pp. xiv+295. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1950.) 15s. net.

ALTHOUGH called experimental and theoretical, this book is mainly a laboratory manual of physical chemistry. A certain amount of theoretical matter, discussing and integrating the principles illustrated, is adroitly blended with the groups of experiments. This is a good practice and helps to promote a mastery of the subject.

In selecting his experiments, Dr. G. Van Praagh has carefully kept in mind the limits of time and apparatus usually found in schools. Moreover, he has tried out the whole of the two hundred experiments described. These cover the states of matter (including the colloidal state), atoms and molecules, solutions, adsorption, chemical change, mass action, ionic dissociation, phase reactions, and electrochemistry. The informative value of the experiments chosen, the good distribution over various topics, and the balance kept between the easy and difficult, all combine to make this an excellent book for use in colleges and the advanced forms of schools.

My only adverse criticism is not of the method or contents but of the author's attitude to his indebtedness for information. He does not state why he only occasionally mentions the originator of an experi-

ment; for many of his experiments are taken from other instructional books, and in some of these books they are described for the first time. Yet Dr. Van Praagh makes no mention of permission in the preface or acknowledgment in the text.

G. FOWLES

Cumacés

Par Prof. Louis Fage. (Faune de France, 54. Federation française des Sociétés de Sciences naturelles: Office central de faunistique.) Pp. iii+136. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1951.) 1200 francs.

THE latest publication in the well-known "Faune de France" series, No. 54, is by Prof. Louis Fage and deals with the crustacean order Cumacea. The name Cumacea, given by Kröyer in 1846, was based on the genus *Cuma* established by Milne-Edwards in 1829 for *C. audouini*; but the name is preoccupied by *Cuma* for a mollusc given by Humphrey in 1797. In spite of suggestion by Stebbing in 1900 that the order should be renamed Sympoda, it is still more general, as in the present work, for the older name to be used. For forty-three years *C. audouini* remained the only species of the order known from France; but the present work deals with sixty-seven valid species from France after excluding doubtful records, and, as the author suggests, more of these small forms are likely to be added as time goes on.

The first twenty-two pages provide an account of the structure, biology and other general matters; the remainder is devoted to systematics. The latter includes useful keys of the descending categories down to species and a full, diagnostic description of each species. The brochure is illustrated with 109 text-figures, many of which contain a number of individual drawings. While not incorrect under the International Rules, the reviewer considers it preferable to follow the general practice of writing the trivial name with a small initial letter when it is derived from the name of a person.

Die botanische Buchillustration

Ihre Geschichte und Bibliographie. Von Claus Nissen. Band 1: Geschichte, Lieferung 2. Pp. 81-160. Band 2: Bibliographie, Lieferung 2. Pp. 81-160. (Stuttgart: Hiersemann Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1951.) n.p.

THE second parts of the two volumes follow the lines of the earlier parts. The author and publishers are to be congratulated on their speedy appearance, and the hope may be expressed that publication will soon be completed. This part of the first volume, dealing with the history of botanical book illustration, completes the chapter on what is termed the baroque period and then passes on to the modern period which, starting with Robert Morison, ends with issues of King Penguins and Pelicans. Pride of place is given in this period to British publications, although some of the best botanical artists whose work is discussed were not of British birth, as, for example, Ehret and the Bauer brothers. The second part of the second volume, dealing with bibliography in alphabetical order, carries on from *He* to *Sa*. As in the first part, one notes some surprising omissions. For example, under Prain there is no reference to the fine work by Prain and Burkill on the genus *Dioscorea* in the East, published in the *Annals* of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, 1936, while Vol. 2, "Monocotyledons" (1934), of J. Hutchinson's "Families of Flowering Plants" is also omitted.

W. B. T.