

differing opinions regarding this as an effective method of teaching, but it should arouse the curiosity of the better students.

This policy of omitting proofs is carried to an extreme in the last twenty-four pages of the book. This last chapter is entitled "Fundamental Concepts," and one is tempted to believe that the author has designed it to serve as a preliminary chapter to his "Modern Higher Algebra." An abstract group is defined, and then one comes up against the statement but not the proof of the simple theorem that the order of a subgroup of a finite group is a divisor of the order of the group. This policy is continued throughout the chapter. After the definition of ring comes the statement, "We leave to the reader the explicit formulation of the definitions of subring and equivalence of rings. They may be found in the first chapter of the 'Modern Higher Algebra.'" "

This last chapter, then, is an encyclopedic treatment of groups, rings, abstract fields, integral domains, ideals and residue classes, quadratic fields and their integers and the Gaussian field. It is interesting to a mature reader, and under the administration of an expert algebraist should be a quick road to knowledge. A non-specialist who attempts this chapter with a keen class may be in for a few bad moments.

This book is a distinct contribution to the mounting list of books devoted to modern algebra. It is modern in its viewpoint and correct in execution, and the student who has mastered it is on the graduate-student side of the hurdle, ready to pursue further work in abstract algebra.

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PHARMACY

History of Pharmacy. A Guide and a Survey. By EDWARD KREMERS and GEORGE URDANG. x + 466 p., 30 figures. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1940. \$5.00.

THIS history falls into 4 parts. The first deals with primitive pharmacy in Babylon and Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome, among the Arabs, and in Europe in the Middle Ages. The second describes the rise of professional pharmacy in Italy, France, Germany and England, and outlines the interrelations of medical theory and materia medica, giving a detailed account of its development. The international relations based

on professional and industrial foundations arising between these countries are also discussed.

The third part gives a comprehensive account of the growth of pharmacy in the U. S. A. in the colonial, Revolutionary and national periods tracing the dependency of American pharmacy upon that of the several European parent countries. The progress of pharmacy in the U. S. A. was marked by the growth of local, state and national societies, and the enactment of local, state and federal laws. Education began in private schools followed by state-supported schools usually attached to universities. The establishment of legal qualifications administered by state examining boards led to supplemental correspondence and coaching schools.

Pharmaceutical literature in America took shape, after various state organizations had planned an American pharmacopoeia to replace those of London, Edinburgh, Dublin and Paris, widely used in the U. S. A., in the Massachusetts Pharmacopoeia (1808), followed by that of the New York Hospital (1818) and that of the U. S. A. (1820). The seventh edition (1862) was the first to be issued under the direct auspices of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Legal status was granted it by the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906). The eleventh revision (twelfth edition) appeared in 1936. This series of editions is in itself a historical record of the scientific advances not only in pharmacy but also in some aspects of biochemistry, immunology, endocrinology, and especially in the history of the growth of knowledge and standardizations of the vitamins. The chapter on the establishment of a literature also contains a record of textbooks, works of reference and journals.

Part IV records the discoveries, inventions and contributions to science by pharmacists in the fields of chemistry and biochemistry and to the wider field of literature. Annotated bibliographies are provided for each chapter. The glossary is unusually extensive, including much historical material which is supplemented by an elaborate chronology of dates of pharmaceutical and general scientific interest.

This book is a mine of biological and biochemical information related to pharmacy, as well as a detailed and inclusive history of pharmacy.

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REPORTS

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

IN the Annual Report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for the year 1940, which the director, Dr. C. Stuart Gager, has submitted for the thirtieth time since his

appointment, he records not only the activities of the year, but also briefly calls attention to the progress which the Botanic Garden has made since it was established thirty years ago. It is noted that this progress has continued, with minor fluctuations, notwithstanding