
Book Reviews

New drugs. Arthur D. Herrick. New York: Revere Publishing Co., 1946. Pp. xiv + 303. \$4.00.

New drugs is a practicing attorney's contribution to the manufacturer's problem of how to properly launch a new drug into interstate commerce. Its title is perhaps ambiguous, leading one at first to believe that the contents deal with descriptions of new therapeutic agents.

Meeting the requirements of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is beyond the capacity of those who are not thoroughly conversant with, or who fail to comprehend in detail, its many provisions and regulations. Mr. Herrick, an expert in the field, recognized this and planned his book as a guide through the maze of legal pitfalls in the path of anyone who is introducing a new product or altering the formula or label of a drug already on the market.

The book is easy to read because of its nonlegalistic language. It covers the application of the Act to every phase of new drug qualification. The author's technic is simple. He calls attention to the problem and then details the procedure required for its solution. Since the original manuscript was read and constructively criticized by officials of the Food and Drug Administration, the stamp of authority has been doubly placed upon it.

The text begins with a discussion of the nature of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and how it is presently administered. The author points out that one of the difficulties in meeting the provisions set forth, in the first years after enactment, was a variable policy of administration. He then progresses to an examination of several facets of the definition for the term "new drug." The place of "new" devices, cosmetics, and foods under this section of the Act is clarified.

The book progresses to a discussion of the procedure envisaged by Section 505 in assuring the safety of new drugs before they can be marketed. How to apply for permission to market is carefully outlined. The detailed information asked for in the application is extensive and covers such points as methods of manufacture and control, components and composition, labeling and samples.

One of the important sections of the text treats the investigations necessary to determine safety. The author states that "naturally the principal data supporting the new drug application deals with the investigations that have been made to determine the safety of the drug for use under the conditions prescribed for it." These include laboratory observations, animal research, clinical studies, and literature surveys. The latter are of value in supporting the clinical findings of the studies specifically undertaken by the manufacturer.

Equally helpful treatment is given the problems resulting from refusal by the Food and Drug Administration to grant permission for introduction of the product into interstate commerce.

A helpful appendix brings the Act up to date and includes new state and city drug legislation. The book

closes with a statement of the official rules of the American Medical Association Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry.

This is a text that fills a definite need in the field of drug manufacturing and distribution.

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Soap in industry. Georgia Leffingwell and Milton Lesser. Brooklyn, N. Y.: Chemical Publishing Co., 1946. Pp. viii + 204. \$4.00.

The scope of this volume is much better described by the first sentence of its Introduction than by its title. Here the authors state: "This book is intended as an *indicative* rather than exhaustive survey of the industrial uses of soluble (?) soaps. . . ." To be sure, this is in reality not a book, for there is no continuity of thought or a visible plan connecting the individual chapters; rather, one gains the impression of having been presented with a conveniently bound collection of trade-journal clippings. The 23 chapters, covering 181 pages, range over the following topics (in order): Animal Husbandry, Building and Construction, Cosmetics, Dentistry, Inks and Ink Making, Insecticides, Leather, Lubricants, Milk Production, Mining and Ore Treating, Oil Production, Paints, Paper and Packaging, Plastics, Polishes and Cleaners (for wood, metal, and glass), Restaurant Sanitation, Road Building and Maintenance, Rubber Production, Textiles, Dyeing and Printing Textiles, Wool Production, Miscellaneous.

The thoroughness with which each topic has been covered may be measured to an extent by the number of literature and patent references appended. This score varies from zero for two articles to 33 for Rubber Production. It is also curious to observe that the majority of references are not much older than five years, while nearly all the "formulae" cited were probably already well known at the beginning of this century and are mostly quoted from the standard formularies.

The use of technical nomenclature is somewhat sloppy, as is apparent from the "soluble" soaps in the first sentence of the book. These really are the water-dispersible (perhaps soluble) sodium and potassium soaps of ordinary fatty acids in contrast with the more oil-soluble, multivalent metal soaps.

In view of the obvious shortcomings, such as the incompleteness of literature and patent references, not to speak of the style, this booklet will hardly be attractive to the technical and scientific worker. However, because of its many useful hints and good "sales talks" the volume will find a place in the hands of the sales personnel of the soap and detergent industry. The remarkably thorough subject index of more than 1,400 entries adds to the usefulness of this compilation.

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