Book Reviews

Practical chemistry for medical students. William Klyne. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1946. Pp. xvi + 459. (Illustrated.) $6.00.

This treatise on chemistry for medical students is intended to include sufficient chemistry for a proper understanding of the medical sciences of biological chemistry and pharmacology. It is based upon the English system of training medical students and is predicated upon the principle that this fundamental chemical information has not been taught the student prior to his entrance to the medical school.

The book is divided into five parts. Part 1 deals with fundamental scientific ideals, in which such subjects as the keeping of records, the logic of analysis, random variations, and statistical methods are introduced. Part 2, treating of practical methods, is devoted mainly to laboratory technics, melting-point determination, measurements from burettes, and distilling ranges. Part 3 embraces general and physical chemistry. The theory of ionization, acid-base equilibrium, hydrolysis, and colloid chemistry, and the principles of volumetric analysis and membrane equilibrium are embraced in this section. Part 4 includes descriptive inorganic chemistry along with the usual type of qualitative analysis found in textbooks on organic chemistry. The last section of the treatise presents the subject of carbon chemistry, tests for organic radicals, and an introduction to compounds of biological importance, such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. In addition, substances of medicinal value, such as acetanilide and sulfonamides, are treated with special emphasis.

Each chapter contains an interesting list of reference books for further reading.

On the whole, the book is well written and embraces a very wide field of chemistry in a manner seldom found nowadays in textbooks in this country.

The author appears to have accomplished the purpose for which the book was written, and in the opinion of the reviewer the subject matter of this text forms an excellent chemical foundation for students in medicine.

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The methods of plane projective geometry based on the use of general homogeneous coordinates. E. A. Maxwell. Cambridge, Engl.: at the Univ. Press; New York: Macmillan, 1946. Pp. xix + 230. $2.75.

This is a textbook on analytic projective geometry in the plane. Plane analytic geometry as ordinarily taught in the freshman year in universities and colleges in the United States is a reasonable prerequisite for understanding it. Although the author insists that he is primarily interested in the methods of projective homogeneous coordinates rather than in the geometrical content of the volume, he nevertheless gives a very satisfactory account of the theory of configurations constructed of points and straight lines, and his discussion of conics might even be called elaborate. Numerous exercises, taken mostly from old examinations, are provided, appropriate reference to the examination which served as the source of each such problem being given.

Doubtless the author had reasons which seemed to him adequate for including no geometrical figures, but to the reviewer it would seem to be good pedagogical practice to illustrate such a treatment with ample drawings and diagrams.

This scholarly work at an elementary level should be supplemented by a similar book on the analytic projective geometry of ordinary space.

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Scientific Book Register

FRIEDGOOD, HARRY B. *Endocrine function of the hypophysis.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1946. Pp. iv + 233. (Illustrated.) $4.50.

GREENSTEIN, J. P. *Biochemistry of cancer.* New York: Academic Press, 1947. Pp. viii + 389. (Illustrated.) $7.80.

HAWK, P. B., OSER, B. L., and SUMMERSON, W. H. *Practical physiological chemistry.* (12th ed.) Philadelphia: Blakiston, 1947. Pp. xiv + 1323. (Illustrated.) $10.00.

HOSMER, RALPH S. *The Cornell plantations, a history.* Ithaca, N. Y.: Cornell Plantations Committee, Cornell Univ., 1947. Pp. xiv + 209. (Illustrated.) $3.00.

LOUTTIT, C. M. *Clinical psychology of children's behavior problems.* (Rev. ed.) New York-London: Harper, 1947. Pp. xviii + 661.

MOORE, J. E. *Penicillin in syphilis.* Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1947. Pp. x + 319. (Illustrated.) $5.00.

NACHMANSOHN, DAVID, *et al. The physico-chemical mechanism of nerve activity.* (Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. Vol. XLVII, Art. 4. Pp. 375–602.) New York: Academy of Sciences, 1946. (Illustrated.) $3.00.

OLMSTED, J. M. D. *Charles-Édouard Brown-Séquard: A nineteenth century neurologist and endocrinologist.* Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1946. Pp. 253. $3.00.

WEAVER, ELBERT COOK, and FOSTER, LAURENCE STANDLEY. *Chemistry for our times.* New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1946. Pp. xii + 738. (Illustrated.) $2.48.

WEIL, ANDRÉ. *Foundations of algebraic geometry.* (American Mathematical Society Colloquium Publ., Vol. XXIX.) New York: American Mathematical Society, 1946. Pp. xix + 289. $5.50.