

Book Reviews

Remington's Practice of Pharmacy. 10th ed. E. Furlerton Cook and Eric W. Martin, Eds. Easton, Pa.: Mack Pub., 1951. 1,616 pp. \$16.00.

This new edition of *Remington's Practice of Pharmacy* is a most comprehensive treatise of the numerous aspects comprising the information so essential to a thorough understanding of the pharmaceutical profession. The edition has been prepared by the editors in collaboration with 49 associates, many of whom have long-established records of authority in their particular field.

Following the pattern set in the 9th edition, the latest Remington is made up of 15 parts under the following headings:

"Pharmaceutical Background," "Technical Operations in Pharmacy," "Galenicals and Other Pharmaceutical Preparations," "Inorganic Chemicals," "Organic Chemicals," "Testing and Analysis," "Laws Governing Pharmacy," "Professional Pharmacy," "The Pharmacist in Public Health," "Business Methods in Pharmacy," "Hospital Pharmacy," "Biological Products," "Perfumery and Cosmetics," and the appendix. The latter contains chapters on "Useful Formulas," "Antidotes," a glossary of medical terms, and a list of pharmaceutical manufacturers.

There are 121 chapters covering academic and practical information in the customary well-organized, logical, and efficiently presented fashion. It is noteworthy that the many illustrations are of modern equipment and procedures that enhance the educational features of the book. Every chapter has been sufficiently revised to include the latest developments, and obsolete material has been deleted. Unfortunately, some preparations which are no longer official have been allowed to retain the U.S.P. and N.F. designation, such as Kataplasma of Kaolin. References used in some parts appeared in the literature as late as 1951. Many of the most recent compounds and pharmaceutical preparations are included, as well as the latest advances in physical and chemical concepts, which are clearly and concisely presented.

Part I is of particular interest to the beginner. It contains chapters on scope, history and ethics, literature, and research, which offer an adequate orientation to the profession. The chapter on incompatibilities presents a different approach to the problems encountered in compounding prescriptions with ingredients that may be antagonistic. The subject matter is adequate and adaptable to the modern type of prescription ingredients. Up-to-date material is presented concerning solubility and isotonic and buffered solutions.

The chapter on "Dental Preparations" could well be expanded to be of still greater service to the practicing pharmacist. The chapter dealing with statistical analysis is particularly significant in view of the importance of this information in analysis and research.

No other pharmaceutical text contains such material. "The Pharmacist and Venereal Disease Control" is a valuable and interesting chapter.

The 10th edition of *Remington's Practice of Pharmacy* continues the precedent of the previous edition by providing excellent, encyclopedic information, prepared in a readily available form, for all those engaged in any phase of the pharmaceutical profession. Some sections of the book, particularly the one dealing with galenical preparations, might well serve as texts. For the most part, however, the material on specific subjects does not replace textbooks devoted solely to a given subject.

M. L. NEUROTH

School of Pharmacy
Medical College of Virginia

Yellow Fever. George K. Strode, Ed. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 710 pp. \$9.50.

The activities of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation in the world-wide campaign against yellow fever over a period of more than 30 years, resulting in the publication of 422 scientific articles, the expenditure of nearly \$14,000,000, and the distribution of more than 28 million doses of vaccine, are summarized in a most interesting manner.

The 9 contributors are staff members of the Rockefeller Foundation now in New York. Their respective sections of the volume are entitled: "Landmark in the Conquest of Yellow Fever," Andrew J. Warren; "The Virus," Max Theiler; "The Pathology of Yellow Fever and the Mammalian Host in Yellow Fever," John C. Bugher; "Immunology," Kenneth C. Smithburn; "The Arthropod Vectors of Yellow Fever," Loring Whitman; "The Clinical Aspects and Diagnosis of Yellow Fever," J. Austin Kerr; "Epidemiology," Richard M. Taylor; "Controlling Yellow Fever," Hugh H. Smith; "Cost and Man Power," George K. Strode.

In summarizing the investigations and control program against yellow fever undertaken by the Foundation, there is contained within this volume the latest and most complete account of the disease. Although the Reed Commission elucidated the basic epidemiological facts that permitted control of urban yellow fever in this hemisphere and raised hopes for its eradication, subsequent experience proved this impossible through *Aedes aegypti* control. The piecemeal addition to our knowledge by the isolation of the etiological agent, the finding of suitable experimental animals, development of vaccines and the mouse protection test, the occurrence of yellow fever in the absence of *aegypti* mosquitoes, discovery of primate and other mammalian reservoirs, the various culicine vectors, identity of the disease in Africa and South America but with epidemiological differences on the two continents, application of modern insecticides in

control programs, and the development of species eradication are recorded with a fascination expected only in a novel.

The complicated epidemiology of this disease brought into the research team scientists skilled in the nonrelated fields of mammalogy, entomology, ecology, and even ornithology. The new approaches and the techniques developed during the campaign against yellow fever are of the greatest importance in attacks upon other arthropod-borne diseases. Every public health worker, epidemiologist, virologist, medical entomologist, and medical historian should read this authoritative and absorbing contribution. The Rockefeller Foundation is to be congratulated for its sustained effort to solve this puzzle and for the devotion and brilliance of its scientists.

E. HAROLD HINMAN

*School of Public Health
University of Oklahoma*

Sourcebook on Atomic Energy. Samuel Glasstone. New York: Van Nostrand, 1950. 546 pp. \$2.90.

This book was prepared as a result of the American Textbook Publishers Institute asking the Atomic Energy Commission for a comprehensive source book on atomic energy for the use of textbook authors and editors. As the chairman of the commission states:

In his search for material, Dr. Glasstone studied the work in the Commission's various laboratories and the files of reports on scientific work. The manuscript was reviewed by a number of scientists associated with the Atomic Energy program for technical accuracy, and has benefited also by the suggestions offered. It was reviewed by the Atomic Energy Commission office of classification to make certain that the publication in no way jeopardizes national security.

The book presents a large amount of information in a manner that teachers of elementary science in colleges, and even in the upper grades of high schools, will find usable. Starting with the foundations of atomic theory, constituents of the atoms, energy and radiation, and structure of the atom are discussed. The classical phenomena of natural radioactivity, and the measurements of radioactivity are then treated. This is followed by a chapter on nuclear radiation and isotopes. The accelerators of charged particles are treated in some detail. The modern development of artificial radioactivity, nuclear transmutation, the discovery of the neutron, and the problems of nuclear structure and nuclear forces form an introduction to the discussion of nuclear fission and the utilization of nuclear energy, as well as the discovery of new elements and the uses of isotopes.

A chapter on cosmic rays and mesons and a discussion of radiation protection and health physics close the book.

This outline shows that the book is really much more than a source book on atomic energy; it is really one of the most readable texts in modern physics and as

such will be a welcome addition to the libraries of physicists, chemists, biologists, and practicing engineers. Every chapter is well illustrated by diagrams and photographs. The book is up to date, and one might only wish that it had been written after November 1950, when the Atomic Energy Commission declassified much additional material. We hope that new editions will soon be necessary. In this case it would be desirable to bring the chapter on nuclear reactors up to date, to give a more detailed outline of the problems in reactor design and reactor technology which are now accessible to a larger audience than before.

In its aim to help teachers and research men the book undoubtedly will be extremely useful. However, for textbook authors, editors, and particularly students, it would be desirable if the large amount of understandable and readable material could be supplemented with a bibliography enabling interested readers to refer to original papers and study details which obviously could not be discussed in a volume this size.

The book can be highly recommended because of its scope and the accuracy with which material has been interpreted.

KARL LARK-HOROVITZ

*Department of Physics
Purdue University*

Biometric Analysis: An Introduction. Alan E. Trelor. Minneapolis: Burgess Pub., 1951. 251 pp. \$4.50.

This is an offset-printed book with letter-size pages, paper covers, and spiral wire binding, presenting a neat if collegiate appearance. The text is easily read and the format attractive. The book follows lines of elementary teaching, with emphasis on logic rather than on mathematics, and on large-sample theory. Practical problems are regarded as better adapted to specific fields of application than to general presentation.

Chapters on numerical description and objectivity, and on variation and probability, set up some of the logic and definitions. A chapter on frequency distribution, with diagrams and tables, begins the more exact treatment. It is followed by chapters on measures of central tendency, of variation, form of variation, and on the normal curve. In these, diagrams, arithmetical and algebraic developments occur, methods of calculation are described, and moments, kurtosis, and skewness are introduced. Discussions of cumulative curves, sampling error, and tests of significance of differences follow. Next, proportions and ratios are studied, introducing binomial and Poisson distributions, and rates in vital statistics are discussed. Use of chi square is then developed; later, tests of independence are described. Correlation and regression are developed, with emphasis on bivariate distribution. The book concludes with several of the common reference tables, as well as one on functions of N ($1/\sqrt{N}$, $N/(N-1)$, etc.), which should prove convenient.