

Native Orchids of North America. Donovan Stewart Correll. Waltham, Mass.: Chronica Botanica; New York: Stechert-Hafner, 1950. 399 pp. \$7.50.

This is a superbly illustrated manual of all orchid species of North America, north of Mexico. Based largely on the Orchid Herbarium of the Botanical Museum of Harvard and on the extensive field work of the author, the treatment of some 150 species of orchids in 46 genera is complete and satisfying. The 146 well-reproduced plates illustrating the book are mostly the work of Blanche Ames and Gordon W. Dillon, two of the outstanding botanical artists of our times. The account of each species includes a brief synonymy, a complete botanical description, a summary of geographical distribution, often a statement of habitat preferences, and a paragraph or two of cultural notes. The latter were contributed by Edgar T. Wherry, of the University of Pennsylvania, and John V. Watkins, of the University of Florida.

The taxonomic treatment on the whole is conservative, although there are a few surprising omissions. Thus *Spiranthes cernua* var. *ochroleuca* (Rydb.) Ames is dismissed on the grounds that a compound microscope is needed to determine the diagnostic character! *Habenaria media* (Rydb.) Niles is missing altogether, although this may be an unintentional oversight. Perhaps the most questionable treatment is the combination of *Cypripedium pubescens* Willd. and *C. parviflorum* Salisb. into a single variety of the Eurasian *C. calceolus* L., from which they are said to differ by a polymorphic tendency.

Despite these few shortcomings, the book will no doubt stand for years as the authoritative reference work on our native species of this interesting family.

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Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. I. C. M. Suter, Ed. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 473 pp. \$12.00.

Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. I. Alfred Burger. New York-London: Interscience, 1951. 577 pp. \$10.00.

Both these books are recommended to the chemist and pharmacologist concerned with the synthesis and evaluation of new compounds. The volume edited by Suter is the first of a series prepared under the auspices of the Division of Medicinal Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. This consists of 6 separate reviews written by 7 investigators of reputation: G. W. Anderson, "Antithyroid Compounds;" Robert R. Burtner, "Antispasmodics, Derivatives of Carboxylic Acids;" C. J. Cavallito, "Antibiotics from Plants;" Thomas P. Carney, "Benzoates and Substituted Benzoates as Local Anesthetics;" and finally, Edwin J. Fellows and Glenn E. Ulyot contributed the discussion of "Aralkylamines" under "Analgesics;" John Lee prepared the accompanying material on "Partial Structures, Related."

Each of these reviews is actually a complete mono-

graph in itself. References are made to all compounds that have been investigated for a particular type of pharmacological activity. For the most part, data on the compounds are presented in tabular form and according to chemical groups. The methods of synthesis and testing are adequately presented for a volume of this sort. Each reviewer also includes a discussion of the relationship between chemical structure and pharmacological activity. This volume should be an excellent source book for those interested in these specific fields—particularly since numerous references are included to groups of compounds in the patent literature alleged to have specific pharmacological activity for which there are no published supporting data.

Although the various sections in the volume by Burger bear classical textbook headings, the work is designed primarily for the more advanced student and is highly recommended as a work that will familiarize him with current trends and thoughts in pharmacological research. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, Volume II of this work was not available. However, on the basis of the style of writing and organization of the material in Volume I, the complete set promises to be a valuable addition to the personal library of biochemists and pharmacologists. The chapters on the chemical and physical properties in relation to biological activity are especially worthy of mention. Those on the adrenergic drugs, blocking agents, and parasympathetic stimulants cover the most recent developments in fields now in an unusual state of flux.

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The Neuroses: Diagnosis and Management of Functional Disorders and Minor Psychoses. Walter C. Alvarez. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1951. 667 pp. \$10.00.

Dr. Alvarez writes in his usual intriguing, easy-to-read style, enlivened with case material garnered from 45 years of practice. His purpose is commendable—to arouse the interest of physicians in recognizing and properly treating the enormous number of patients who seek help for "functional" illness. Twenty-nine chapters cover a general orientation to the problem of neurosis, diagnosis, causes of neuroses and psychoses, types of personality and several syndromes, the psychosomatic features of the several specialties, and treatment. The content of these chapters is of variable merit. The exhortation to listen sympathetically to the life problems as well as physical symptoms of the neurotic patient is wisely repeated in many ways. The need for careful study of both somatic and psychic factors is justly stressed. Diagnosis, however, is made predominantly by superficial observation, unrelated to principles of modern dynamic psychiatry.

In discussing causes of neurosis, greatest emphasis seems to be placed on "poor nervous inheritance," an

idea which many psychiatrists do not share. This poor heredity is often used by Alvarez to account for a poor prognosis. But clinical experience shows that such pessimism is unwarranted; many patients get well despite a highly neurotic background. The descriptions of neuroses and neurotic syndromes range from fairly accurate generalities to grossly inaccurate specific statements. A reader of even moderate psychiatric sophistication might well be shocked by such a blatant error as "women are perhaps ten times as subject to neuroses as men are."

The five chapters on treatment are largely various admonitions to be a kindly, understanding physician, able to give sound advice and not scold patients. To the reviewer this attitude is one which a good doctor has with all patients, and is merely the first step toward treating a neurotic. The discussion of psycho-

therapy is limited, superficial, and inadequate, and the author seems biased in his derogation of psychoanalysis.

In his preface Alvarez says the book is written by a nonpsychiatrist for nonpsychiatrists. The result is what one would expect—a nonpsychiatric book. Although it beautifully describes how to be a good doctor, the volume adds little to the sound diagnosis and management of neuroses, and, in a rather cavalier manner, ignores most of the recent excellent work of many investigators in the field of psychosomatic medicine and neurotic disorders. It is regrettable that a book with such worth-while aims, by such an able author, cannot be given greater praise.

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Scientific Book Register

- Principles of Weed Control.** Gilbert H. Ahlgren, Glenn C. Klingman, and Dale E. Wolf. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 368 pp. \$5.50.
- Introduction to Number Theory.** Trygve Nagell. New York: Wiley; Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1951. 309 pp. \$5.00.
- Insects as Human Food: A Chapter of the Ecology of Man.** F. S. Bodenheimer. The Hague, Netherlands: Dr. W. Junk, 1951. 352 pp. 10 guilders.
- Synthetic Methods of Organic Chemistry**, Vol. 5. With cumulative index of Vols. 1-5. W. Theilheimer. Basel: S. Karger; New York: Interscience, 1951. 612 pp. \$14.00.
- Lumineszenz: Ergebnisse und Anwendungen in Physik, Chemie und Biologie.** Fritz Bandow. Stuttgart: Wissenschaftliche Verlag, 1950. 255 pp.
- Preparation, Properties, and Technology of Fluorine and Organic Fluoro Compounds.** National Nuclear Energy Series VII-1. Charles Slessor and Stuart R. Schram, Eds. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 868 pp. \$10.50.
- Decompression Sickness: Caisson Sickness, Diver's and Flier's Bends and Related Syndromes.** Compiled under the auspices of the Subcommittee on Decompression Sickness, Committee on Aviation Medicine, Division of Medical Sciences, National Research Council. John F. Fulton, Ed. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1951. 437 pp. \$8.50.
- Algae of the Western Great Lakes Area—Exclusive of Desmids and Diatoms.** G. W. Prescott, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.: Cranbrook Inst. of Science, 1951. 946 pp. \$10.50.
- Organic Syntheses**, Vol. 31. R. S. Schreiber, Ed. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 122 pp. \$2.75.
- X-Ray Analysis of Crystals.** Eng. ed. of *Röntgenanalyse van Krystallen*. J. M. Bijvoet, N. H. Kolkmeier, and Caroline H. MacGillavry; trans. by H. Littman Fürth. New York: Interscience; London: Butterworths, 1951. 304 pp. \$6.50.
- Physical Chemistry of Lubricating Oils.** A. Bondi. New York: Reinhold, 1951. 380 pp. \$10.00.
- Psychoanalysis, Man, and Society.** Paul Schilder. New York: Norton, 1951. 382 pp. \$4.00.
- New and Nonofficial Remedies.** Issued under the direction of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, American Medical Association. Philadelphia-London: Lippincott, 1951. 782 pp.
- College Algebra.** 2nd ed. Raymond W. Brink. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1951. 495 pp. \$3.75.
- Introduction to Modern Chemistry.** P. C. Gaines, Laurence O. Binder, Jr., and Ray Woodruff. St. Louis: Mosby, 1951. 576 pp. \$4.75.
- Fundamentals of Soil Science.** 2nd ed. C. E. Millar and L. M. Turk. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 510 pp. \$5.50.
- Advances in Food Research**, Vol. III. E. M. Mrak and George F. Stewart. New York: Academic Press, 1951. 518 pp. \$9.50.
- Fundamental Principles of Physical Chemistry.** 2nd ed. Carl F. Prutton and Samuel H. Maron. New York: Macmillan, 1951. 803 pp. \$5.75.
- The Surface Chemistry of Solids.** S. J. Gregg. New York: Reinhold; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 297 pp. \$8.50.
- The Dusky-footed Wood Rat.** A record of observations made on the Hastings Natural History Reservation. Jean M. Linsdale and Lloyd P. Tevis, Jr. Berkeley: Univ. California Press, 1951. 664 pp. \$7.50.
- Corrosion Guide.** Erich Rabald. Houston-Amsterdam: Elsevier Press, 1951. 629 pp. \$12.50.
- Psychosomatic Gynecology: Including Problems of Obstetrical Care.** William S. Kroger and S. Charles Freed. Philadelphia-London: Saunders, 1951. 503 pp. \$8.00.
- Statistical Methods for Chemists.** W. J. Youden. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 126 pp. \$3.00.
- Radiologic Physics.** Revised 2nd ed. Charles Weyl and S. Reid Warren, Jr. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1951. 491 pp. \$10.50.