Book Reviews

The Extra Pharmacopoeia. vol. 2. Pharmaceutical Press, London, ed. 23, 1955. xxxi + 1501 pp. £2 17s. 6d.

Volume II of *The Extra Pharmacopoeia* supplements the information in the first volume published in 1952, and the two volumes form a comprehensive work of reference on materia medica and allied subjects. The first edition of this reference work, published by William Martindale in 1883, consisted of 313 pages. The advances in therapeutics may be gaged in part by the size of the present volumes: volume I, 1532 pages, and volume II, 1501 pages.

The Extra Pharmacopoeia is unique in its outlook among references on materia medica. It compiles in concise form information concerning medicinal substances of preparations and alterations in standards, existing substances that differ materially from British standards. It covers the latest developments in medicine and the allied sciences and incorporates relevant information in the form of brief monographs or abstracts. Volume I is largely limited to a product description under an alphabetical arrangement.

Volume II, arranged in 33 sections, has been compiled for the general practitioners in pharmacy and medicine, for experts engaged in associated activities, for research workers, and for students. For the general practitioner of medicine and pharmacy, the volume provides much information of use and interest. For analysts, clinical pathologists and biochemists, the sections dealing with chemical and physical methods for the analysis of drugs, food, and water and with clinical biochemistry and hematology provide detailed descriptions of selected methods. Sample section headings indicate the broad scope of this work, for example, polarographic analysis, indicators, graphic analysis, fluorometric analysis, microbiological assay of vitamins, food analysis, food law, water analysis, structure-action relationships, sterilization, radiotherapy, vitamins, clinical biochemistry, and proprietary medicines.

The new edition of *The Extra Pharmacopoeia,* prepared with the help of many experts, is a valuable reference work for scientists and technologists in the fields of pharmacy and medicine as well as related areas of work. The content of the book is made more valuable by thousands of abstracts of, and references to, scientific papers that serve as a guide to published work on the various subjects. The work is so broad in its scope that it deserves a place in every scientific library.

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Industrial and Manufacturing Chemistry. Part I, *Organic*; part II, *Inorganic,* vols. I and II. Geoffrey Martin. Philosophical Library, New York, 1955. Part I, xxi + 752 pp., ed. 7; part II, vol. I, xxiii + 600 pp., ed. 6; part II, vol. II, xxi + 491 pp., ed. 6. $50 per set.

An editor of a scientific or technical journal or journals possibly is more aware of the invaluable services of comprehensive and authoritative reference volumes than most others engaged, in one way or another, in highly specialized areas of the physical sciences.

With four journals serving a very broad spectrum of chemical science and technology to watch over, I find such greatly diversified reference works as the 15-volume Kirk and Othmer *Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology,* the four-volume Mattiello *Protective and Decorative Coatings,* the six-volume Guenther, *The Essential Oils,* and the six-volume Haynes, *The History of the American Chemical Industry,* highly informative and great time savers. Otherwise how would I check thousands of points a year that need checking in manuscripts? How could I answer the flood of calls for aid for generalized information from all parts of the world?

To the meager list just cited, and to a great many more reference works that could be mentioned if space permitted, must be added the three-volume *Industrial and Manufacturing Chemistry* published in England.

This very important source of information on many varied facets of industrial chemistry and chemical engineering is by no means a new venture. A continued demand for Martin's *Industrial Chemistry* for the past two decades has demonstrated the intrinsic value of these reference volumes.

Volumes I and II (inorganic) are now in a sixth edition, and a third volume, dealing with organic chemistry and more particularly standard chemical and chemical process manufacturing operations now in a seventh revision or edition.

Frankly, the task of describing (perhaps the word *identifying* is more correct) this reference series is unnecessarily complicated—at least I feel this to be the case. The inorganic field is covered in two volumes—labeled "Volumes I and II." The organic field, with stress on manufacturing, is covered in a separate book which, unfortunately, is labeled as "Part I," rather than as "Volume III." Obviously, there is a historical reason for this complexity, but need this condition continue indefinitely? Despite this criticism, the quality of the text material presented in the three books warrants high praise.

In the preface to the first edition of part I, the original editor, Geoffrey Martin, stated "The editor's aim has been to cover the whole range of subjects with which the industrial chemist and manufacturer are usually concerned, and the book will serve either as a textbook or as a work of reference; it is intended to meet the requirements of all business and practical men interested in chemical processes, of manufacturers, consulting chemists, chemical engineers, patent workers, inventors, technical lawyers. . . . ."

A careful perusal of the recently revised editions indicates that all three volumes have been subjected to a rigorous reevaluation of content, with the result that the information and data presented have been updated. It is then a fair statement to say that modern manufacturing operations and chemical technology as practiced both in Europe and the United States are given with reasonable accuracy. The editors readily admit (and wisely so) that intimate know-how is not provided.

Space does not permit a detailed report regarding what has been added in the most recent editions and what has been omitted. However, to one who can say, without stretching the bonds of modesty too greatly, that he is reasonably cognizant of the chemical and technologic changes of the postwar years, the new editors have done a commendable job of modernizing the latest editions.

It is my belief that these books will find their greatest appeal to technical librarians in the United States, com-