

The Dispensatory of the United States, Vols. 1 and 2.¹ Arthur Osol and George E. Farrar. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1950. 2,189 pp. \$25.00.

By including Volume Two in this 1950 publication, the 24th edition of the *Dispensatory* has been brought up to date. This makes available to pharmacists and physicians significant new developments in medicine without a revision of the 1,928 pages of the 24th edition. Although this volume affords a commentary on all new listings of the *Pharmacopoeia*, the deleted material is retained in Volume One.

The 259 new titles that comprise Volume Two are fully described. Much pertinent information is given, such as trade names and trade-marks, names of manufacturers and distributors, a short history of the discovery of each drug, pharmacologic data, therapeutic uses, toxicology, dosage, and the usual chemical and physical data.

Among the 88 unofficial items described in Part 7 are such new drugs as cortisone, pregnenolone, ACTH, terramycin, and many new antihistaminics. In addition to the valuable information presented in the *Dispensatory*, its worth is greatly increased by the citations of original references in the text.

The Dispensatory of the United States has been a dependable reference for pharmacists since its first publication in 1833. Its value was greatly enhanced in the earlier years of its existence, for revisions appeared two or three times in a decade, whereas the *Pharmacopoeia* was revised but once during the same period—until 1940. This meant that each revision of the *Dispensatory* within a decade could carry much new information about drugs that was not available in

¹ Volume One is comprised of Parts 1 to 5—1,928 pages including an index of 107 pages—and is based on *The Pharmacopoeia of the United States XIII* (1947), *The National Formulary VIII* (1946), *The British Pharmacopoeia* of 1932 and its addenda. Volume Two consists of Parts 6 and 7—259 pages including an index of 4 pages. Part 6 is a commentary on the 171 new titles of the U.S.P. XIV, *The National Formulary IX*, and *The British Pharmacopoeia* of 1948. Part 7 is a commentary on 88 nonofficial medicinals which are of recent development and new to the *Dispensatory*.

the *Pharmacopoeia*. In the years when the *Pharmacopoeia* was revised each ten years, and when the changes were not great, it was not too troublesome for the authors of the *Dispensatory* to include *Pharmacopoeia* text material in an otherwise new edition of their book.

The commentary character of the *Dispensatory* has given it value as a reference through the years. It has grown so voluminous that to revise it each five years, as is now done with the *Pharmacopoeia* and *National Formulary*, would impose a great burden upon the authors. This is a plausible explanation for the appearance of the 1950 edition, which is in reality not a new revised edition but the 24th edition with an addendum. The addendum is valuable and is available as a separate book for those possessing the 24th edition. This makes it unnecessary for anyone to buy a second copy of the old edition to obtain the information in Volume Two of the 1950 edition.

The appearance of the new *Dispensatory* is confusing because (1) the binder's label is in a different color than that of the 24th edition. This gives the impression that it is a new edition, which in fact it is not. (2) The edition number is omitted on the outside cover. (3) The use of the terms "Volume One" and "Volume Two" is new. Will the 25th edition, if and when it appears, be "Volume Three"? (4) Since Volume Two of the current edition is in the nature of an addendum, we believe it might well have been given that name.

This reviewer believes that the *Dispensatory* is a useful book for pharmacists but feels that the appearance of the next edition will lead to confusion and criticism unless the authors and publishers make its nature and purpose very clear. The price for Volume One sold separately is \$20.00, for Volume Two \$5.00, for the combined edition \$25.00.

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Association Affairs

Second Alaskan Science Conference

On September 4-8, the newly organized Alaska Division of the AAAS, in cooperation with the University of Alaska and with the assistance of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and the Arctic Institute of North America, will hold a second Alaskan Science Conference at Mount McKinley National Park. The purpose of the conference is to survey the progress of science in Alaska and to examine the prospects for better application and development of science in Alaskan research. The conference will assemble, for the first time in Alaska,

scientists actively engaged in research in the Territory in a program designed to promote closer collaboration and clearer understanding among all Alaskan scientists.

This conference has developed from a recommendation set forth by the First Alaskan Science Conference, conducted in Washington, D. C., under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council.

Alaskan scientists welcome this opportunity to present in their first joint meeting the results of their research. They anticipate many advantages for ex-

tending the usefulness of their work through the forums for discussion that the conference will provide. Through association with their colleagues attending the conference from outside the Territory they look for improved relations with the great body of science which is the world's principal source of information for the guidance of humanity.

To their scientific guests, Alaskan scientists wish to extend, through the medium of the conference, the use of their facilities, and to offer their assistance in utilizing certain unique opportunities which this country affords for the advancement of science.

Further information concerning the conference may be obtained from the following sources:

Alaska: Rachel Spinney Simmet (Mrs. Robert P.),
Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 960
Anchorage, Alaska
Washington: A. L. Washburn, Director
Arctic Institute of North America
1530 P Street, N.W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Please use air mail to avoid delay.

A steering committee under the chairmanship of Laurence Irving has arranged the following tentative program:

Tuesday, Sept 4—Opening Session

Evening: Address by the Chairman of the Conference,
Governor Ernest Gruening
Installation of the Alaska Division in the AAAS by
officials of the national association

Wednesday, Sept. 5—Survey of the Progress and Prospects of Scientific Research in Alaska

9: 00–11: 00 Biological Sciences
2: 00–4: 00 Physical Sciences
8: 00–10: 00 Social Sciences

Thursday, Sept. 6—Section Meetings

Friday, Sept. 7—Scientific Field Trips for Study of the Natural Features of the Mount McKinley Area

Saturday, Sept. 8—Business Meeting

A.M. Adoption of Constitution and By-Laws for the
Alaska Division, AAAS
Election of officers for the division

Branches

At a winter meeting of the Springfield (Mass.) Branch the attention of the membership was focused on the specialized services scientists can contribute to civilian defense. R. I. Dunlap is already organizing a radiological monitoring section in the health division of Springfield's Civilian Defense organization, and specialists are being sought as volunteers for chemical analysis, special weapons of defense, bomb reconnaissance, and instruction. The meeting featured a talk by Frank D. Korkosz, of Springfield's Museum of Natural History. He discussed "The Role of the Planetarium in Modern Warfare." On May 8 the Branch participated in a joint meeting with Arcus Biologiae, the biology club of American International College. Thurlow C. Nelson, of Rutgers University, discussed "A Half-Century of Oyster Research."

New officers for the Lancaster (Pa.) Branch, elected for 1951–52, are: R. M. Foose, chairman; H. A. Robinson, vice chairman; W. G. Frankenburg, secretary; and M. A. Lewis, treasurer.

In May the AAAS Council authorized the establishment of an Alaska Division of the Association, with branches in the Anchorage and Fairbanks districts. Organization of the two branches is now complete, and for the Cook Inlet Branch the following officers have been elected: Laurence Irving, president; Don L. Irwin, vice president; Rachel E. Spinney, secretary-treasurer. Members of the executive committee are, for physical science, Charles W. Wilson, Marvin L. Slaughter; for biological science, Laurence Irving, Robert Scott; and for social science, Hugh Johnson and Lois Morey.

The Arctic Branch, centering at Fairbanks and the University of Alaska, named Andres I. Karstens, president; David Stowell, vice president; and John L. Buckley, secretary-treasurer.

The scientists of Juneau and its environs are now actively engaged in organizing a Southeastern Alaska Branch.

Academies

AAAS research grants have been given by the Florida Academy of Sciences to Edward P. St. John for work on Ophioglossaceae of the Southeast; by the Georgia Academy to H. W. Straley, III, of Georgia Institute of Technology, for studies of the subsurface structures of the coastal plain in northern Georgia; by the Indiana Academy to Winona Welch, of De Pauw University, for collecting bryophytes of Indiana, and to Duane Roller, of Wabash College, for a study of the early history of electricity from 1600 to 1775; by the Nebraska Academy to Otis Wade, of the University of Nebraska, for research on the summer activities of certain small hibernating animals; by the New Orleans Academy to Elinor H. Behre, of Louisiana State University, for studies of the effect of climate on the sexual season and sexual maturity of invertebrates, particularly crustacea; and by the Oklahoma Academy to Vincent E. Kurtz, of the University of Oklahoma.

Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science has given AAAS research grants to Oliver V. Holtzmann, of Colorado A & M, for a study of the nature of pathogenicity in bacterial wilt of carnations, and to Charles F. Stowe, of the University of Denver, for work on the effect of methionine on growth and polycythemia in rats. Other AAAS research grants have been made by the Ohio Academy to Elizabeth W. Smith, of Kent State University, for her investigations in endocrinology, and to the Committee on Ohio Flora, to assist in a study of herbaria in Ohio, leading to the preparation of "Ohio Flora;" by the South Carolina Academy to Ruth Jones, of Winthrop College, and to A. M. Chreitzberg, Jr., of Wofford College; and by the West Virginia Academy to A. W. Scholl, of Marshall College, for research on the preparation of alkyl esters.