

accepted in a liberal sense; particulars as to governing body, list of masters, number of boys, general education, entrance examination, entrance scholarships, and other scholarships, and fees are given. The headmasters' conference last December recommended that this publication should be adopted as its official book of reference, and the next annual issue will appear with this semi-official recognition. There are short articles about Oxford and Cambridge certificate examinations, and on how to enter various professions, including the medical profession, and on Colonial openings; finally, there is a general list of preparatory schools. Altogether the volume will be found useful by any father of sons who has not yet made up his mind what school to select.

The ninth edition of *Saunders's Pocket Medical Formulary*⁹ has been revised by Dr. W. M. POWELL of Philadelphia, who states in the preface that by omitting formulæ which had become out of date space has been gained for the introduction of others, illustrating not only the use of approved new remedies, but also the modern application of many old ones. The volume contains a set of prescriptions arranged under an alphabetical list of diseases. It has blank interleaves for additional formulæ. A book of this kind will often be found useful by suggesting a new drug or new combination.

*The Year Book of Pharmacy for 1908*¹⁰ presents the usual features of this useful publication, and contains abstracts of the principal papers on pharmaceutical subjects which have appeared in British and foreign journals during the year; these abstracts are arranged under the headings Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy. Those grouped as chemistry occupy 220 pages, or over one-third of the entire book; the papers of which a summary is given are of very varied character, dealing with identity and purity tests for a large number of medicinal substances, assay processes for drugs, newly-discovered active principles, etc. The abstracts under the sections Materia Medica and Pharmacy are much fewer in number; the last-named section includes a considerable number of galeical formulæ published during the year. The second part of the book is the official account of the proceedings of the British Pharmaceutical Conference held in 1908 at Aberdeen, and includes the full text of the papers presented at that meeting, with the discussions upon them.

In *Analytical Notes, 1908*,¹¹ issued by Messrs. Evans, Sons, Lescher, and Webb, this firm publishes concise accounts of the tests applied in their laboratories to large numbers of commercial specimens of drugs and chemicals. Similar little books of laboratory records are now published by several of the larger firms, and form a very useful indication of the ordinary prevailing standards of purity in drugs. A good deal of importance is evidently attached to maintaining a sufficiently strict limit to the traces of arsenic and lead permissible in chemicals, and far greater purity in this respect prevails now than was the case a few years ago. Of forty-five samples of citric acid only four contained as much as 1 part of arsenic per million, and all but seven contained less than 10 parts of lead per million, the seven containing between 10 and 20 parts. Sodium sulphate contained as much as 4 parts of arsenic per million in four samples out of 100, and sodium bicarbonate conformed to a very similar standard. Figures are given for about 150 different drugs and chemicals.

⁹ *Saunders's Pocket Medical Formulary*. By W. M. Powell, M.D. Ninth edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders and Co 1909. (Fcap. 8vo, pp. 315. 7s. 6d.)

¹⁰ *The Year Book of Pharmacy and Transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, 1908*. Editor of the Year Book, J. O. Braithwaite. Editors of the Transactions, E. Saville Peck, M.A., and E. White, B.Sc., F.I.C. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1908. (Demy 8vo, pp. 606.)

¹¹ *Analytical Notes, 1908*. Liverpool: Evans, Sons, Lescher, and Webb. (Crown 8vo, pp. 48. Free on application.)

THE Belgian Government is making arrangements for the establishment of an Institute of Tropical Medicine at Antwerp.

THE annual report of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund for 1908 states that in view of the Old Age Pension Act the regulations have been revised, and it is hoped that in future the society will be more free to help younger nurses who become incapacitated. A candidate for an annuity must have had at least three years' training and seven years' subsequent nursing, have attained the age of 40, and be more or less incapacitated for work. There is, however, at present no vacant annuity. Further particulars can be obtained on application to Dr. A. Ogier Ward, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

MEDICINAL AND DIETETIC PREPARATIONS.

Tablets for the Production of Lotions.

UNDER the name "Soltabs," Messrs. Hewlett and Son, Ltd. (Charlotte Street, London, E.C.), are supplying a series of soluble tablets for the production of lotions. These are distinguished by their shape from tablets for internal administration. We have examined samples of nasal eucalyptol comp. which have been submitted, consisting of borax and sodium bicarbonate with several antiseptics, and find that they can be readily crushed or broken, and dissolve without difficulty to form a clear solution.

New Theobromine Compounds.

We have received from Messrs. Widenmann, Broicher, and Co. (33, Lime Street, London, E.C.), samples of two new derivatives of theobromine introduced by Messrs. Zimmer and Co., Frankfurt. The first of these is called Eustenin, and is theobromine sodium iodide $C_7H_7N_4O_2Na_2I$; the formula shows that it contains 36 per cent. of iodine, or 43 per cent. of sodium iodide. Eustenin is recommended for use in arterio-sclerosis and allied conditions. We found it to be a white powder of strongly alkaline reaction, soluble in water, the solution being stable with alkalis, but decomposed after a short time by acids, theobromine being deposited in crystals. The other new theobromine-derivative, Theolactin, is also alkaline in reaction, but its solution is less stable; it must be dissolved in warm water, and on cooling the solution theobromine gradually separates unless additional alkali is added. This compound is theobromine sodium lactate, and therefore very similar in constitution to diuretin. It is a granular white powder, very hygroscopic in nature, and is recommended as a diuretic free from injurious action on the heart, which may be employed alternatively with other compounds when it is desired to change the diuretic administered in any given case.

Evaporating Skin Lotions.

We have received samples of a number of lotions prepared by Messrs. C. J. Hewlett and Son, Ltd. (Charlotte Street, London, E.C.), intended for use in cases of eczema in which fatty bases are undesirable. Various formulæ are employed, including sulphur, zinc oxide, resorcin, solution of coal tar, and ichthyol. The lotions are of a slightly gelatinous consistency, and, when applied to the skin, the vehicle, which is partly alcoholic, evaporates fairly rapidly, leaving the medicaments in a dry film, which is not readily rubbed off.

Tablets of Glycerophosphates with Haemoglobin.

IN spite of the doubts that have been cast on the superiority of glycerophosphates to inorganic phosphates, these compounds continue to find much favour, and the number of ready-made combinations in which they are supplied is continually increasing. A useful form for their exhibition is provided by the tablets of compound glycerophosphates with haemoglobin, prepared by Messrs. C. J. Hewlett and Sons, Ltd. (Charlotte Street, London, E.C.), a sample of which we have examined. These are sugar-coated tablets containing glycerophosphates of calcium, potassium, sodium, iron, and magnesium, with caffeine, strychnine, and haemoglobin. There are obvious conveniences in the tablet form for such a medicine, which is likely to be ordered for patients who are following their ordinary occupations.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES.

Tablets for Testing Urine.

VARIOUS devices have been introduced from time to time for the purpose of simplifying the clinical testing of urine, especially for sugar and albumen, and perhaps the most successful of these is the employment of tablets of known strength for preparing the respective agents at the moment when they are required. Mr. E. Merck (16, Jewry Street, London, E.C.) has submitted samples of a number of such tablets which he has recently placed on the market, and our examination of these has shown them to be very satisfactory for the purpose. They include tablets for the preparation of Fehling's solution for the detection or [quantitative determination of glucose, and tablets for the production of Esbach's Reagent, Riegler's Reagent, and acid-ferrocyanide solution, for the detection of albumen; the first named of these three can also be used for its approximate determination by means of an albuminometer.