

respect to British and foreign patent law and practice. The foreign section is very comprehensive—Bechuanaland and Eritrea, both of which have, we believe, issued Patent Ordinances, are the only countries we miss—though it would have been convenient if information had been given of the method of making an application in some of the smaller States that have no separate Patent Office. A very useful feature is the information given indicating the countries in which inventions relating to particular subjects should be patented. This might well be amplified in a later edition, especially with reference to the smaller States. Mr. Thompson does not refer to Luxembourg's withdrawal from the German Customs Union in December, 1918, but this is important, since, in consequence, patents granted there will presumably no longer be dependent on the corresponding patents taken out in Germany. Rumania, too, should have been included amongst those adhering to the International Convention. The British law is very well presented, though we have noticed a few errors in the statutory time limits allowed for accepting and sealing specifications. The statement on p. 14 that unless a complete specification is accepted within the statutory period it becomes public property is obviously an oversight, as such a specification is not published and remains secret. The book, however, is generally accurate, and should prove a very valuable and trustworthy guide to would-be patentees.

*The Statesman's Year Book. Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for 1920.* Edited by Sir J. Scott Keltie and Dr. M. Epstein. Fifty-seventh annual publication. Pp. xlv + 1494. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1920.) Price 20s. net.

THE authors of this ever-welcome annual have conquered many difficulties in their survey of the world as it appeared in May, 1920. The maps indicate the new boundaries of South-eastern Europe and the Near East, and the new divisions of the former German colonies Togo, Kamerun, and German East Africa. In the text, however, the partitions of these ex-German territories has not been worked out. The difficulties of compilation are illustrated by the treatment of Czecho-Slovakia and Yugo-Slavia. In the first case an attempt has been made to bring together the statistics relative to the former Austrian and the former Hungarian lands, while in the second instance full details are given for Serbia only.

Mining statistics for Germany chiefly refer to 1913; there is no estimate of the probable yield of the new Germany. Hungary is incorrectly stated to have a common boundary with Germany; statistics for Croatia and Slavonia are included under Hungary, although a paragraph, which might be missed, correctly says that this area forms part of Yugo-Slavia. The list of Hungarian towns is apt to be misleading, since Arad and Temesvar have been omitted, as they are correctly included among the Rumanian towns,

while Kolozsvár (Cluj), Nagyszeben (Sibiu), and Brassó (Brasov) appear in both lists. In the case of Spitsbergen it is not clearly stated that the non-Norwegian estates in Spitsbergen are not included under the sovereignty of Norway, but are extra-territorial.

These points indicate the necessarily tentative character of much of this new information. The bulk of the volume maintains the high standard of previous issues.

*The Extra Pharmacopœia of Martindale and Westcott.* Revised by Dr. W. Harrison Martindale and Dr. W. Wynn Westcott. Seventeenth edition. (In two volumes.) Vol. i., pp. xxxix + 1115. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1920.) Price 27s. net.

OFFICIAL pharmacopœias are necessarily restricted in their scope, and there are many drugs and other articles used in medicine which for good reasons find no place in them. Hence there is a recognised need for such supplementary books as the "Extra Pharmacopœia," which deal more freely than the official works do with medicinal preparations, appliances, new methods, and so forth. The fact that Martindale and Westcott's work has reached a seventeenth edition is sufficient indication that it meets a want. The single volume of the earlier editions developed into two volumes some years ago, and the most important of these (vol. i.) has become somewhat more bulky than of yore; but it can still be slipped into an overcoat pocket, in spite of its 1154 pages.

A great deal of new matter has been included in this vol. i., the requisite space having been provided in part by transferring the sections on iontophoresis, radium, thorium, and radiology to the second volume (not yet published). Among the sections which have been revised special mention may be made of those on vaccines, antitoxins, colloidal metals, and organotherapy; whilst many useful notes, particularly on the treatment of wounds, have been added to the therapeutic index of diseases. Both the medical practitioner and the pharmacist will find the volume replete with information.

*White Lead: its Use in Paint.* By Dr. A. H. Sabin. Pp. ix + 133. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1920.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE information conveyed in this book is usually of a superficial character. Thus, although processes of manufacture are described, no details are given, and in the descriptions of the application of white lead in paints nothing very new comes to light. The author tells us that "it is not probable that one-thousandth of one per cent. of white lead used in paint is ever discoloured by sulphur, so it is not worth talking about." Unfortunately, however, he gives no alternative explanation of a well-known phenomenon. A similar off-hand style runs throughout the book, and cannot fail to diminish its value.