

ber, the multiplate and high-pressure cloud chambers and the hydrocarbon and liquid hydrogen bubble chambers in addition to the more conventional types of Wilson cloud chamber. They cover not only questions of chamber design but also problems raised in the interpretation of the photographs, track distortion, selection systems, and so on. Of particular interest is the discussion of methods used for increasing the recycling rate of Wilson chambers by using techniques of fast recompression or overcompression.

Attractively reproduced, using the 'Vari-type' process, there is no doubt that this report will, for a long time to come, continue to be of great value to all research workers using these methods of particle detection.

Remington's Practice of Pharmacy

Edited by Eric W. Martin and E. Fullerton Cook. Eleventh edition. Pp. xii+1707. (Easton, Penn.: The Mack Publishing Company, 1956.) 18 dollars.

THIS large volume is primarily a text-book and reference guide for pharmacists, including students, retail and hospital pharmacists, lecturers, manufacturers and executives. It deals not only with scientific problems but also with questions of administration and legal matters. Five years have elapsed since the last edition appeared and the book has been brought up to date by a team of more than two hundred assistant editors and contributors. Nearly a thousand pages are devoted to the discussion of individual drugs; Dr. C. T. Van Meter is responsible for the chemistry of this section and Dr. Louis S. Goodman is responsible for the pharmacology. The result is that a vast amount of reliable information about American drugs is here available for reference. The official drugs used in Britain are generally the same, though they do not always have the same names, but unfortunately the unofficial drugs used in Britain are often different and are not included. There are sections on chromatography, statistics, biological testing and various other topics.

J. H. GADDUM

A Dictionary of Terms in Pharmacognosy and Other Divisions of Economic Botany

By Prof. George Macdonald Hocking. Pp. xxv+284. (Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1955.) 70s.

THE title of this book is a little misleading as the contents cover a much wider field than it suggests. Pharmacognosy is the study of those plants and animals and their products which are used as sources of medicinal and pharmaceutical substances. Like other sciences, it has its own technical terms, though most of these are derived from the biological sciences. While this dictionary does define these terms, it also gives concise information on the sources, active principles, uses, and other details of a large variety of materials. Some of these are mineral in origin, some are synthetic compounds, and some are spices and foods, and would not normally be included under pharmacognosy. The book is therefore a compendium of information on the terms and materials likely to be encountered in pharmacy, economic botany, and the foods and drugs trade. The names and terms are arranged alphabetically and include such diverse items as Bourbon whisky, boysenberries, lysergic acid and streptodornase; thixotropic gel, tracheid and tolerance; gamma-globulin, garbling and gamopetal. Each item is defined and, where

appropriate, the names of the genus and species are given, with a brief description and interesting historical data. Another useful feature is the inclusion and definition of many vernacular and popular names for commodities. There are eight appendixes which include a bibliography, a glossary of terms used in therapeutics and botany and a list of plants yielding rubber. This dictionary is therefore a very useful reference book for anyone connected with economic botanical products and related substances.

J. W. FAIRBAIRN

Proceedings of the Third International Congress on High-Speed Photography

Held under the auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in London, 10th-15th September 1956. Edited by R. B. Collins. Pp. xvi+417. (London: Butterworths Scientific Publications; New York: Academic Press, Inc., 1957.) 70s.; 13 dollars.

SINCE 1952, international congresses on high-speed photography have become biennial events because of continued advances and applications of its technology. The third congress took place in London during September 1956 and a full report was presented in *Nature* by Dr. J. S. Courtney-Pratt (178, 1440; 1956). The proceedings of this congress, which have now been published, indicate the international character of the art. Apart from twenty-two British contributions, papers were received from France (13), United States (12), Germany (5), Japan (3), Switzerland (3), U.S.S.R. (2) and Holland (1). The ever-growing importance of high-speed photography as a research tool is evidenced by the fact that more than one-third of the papers deal with the application of techniques to such diverse studies as aerodynamics, ballistics, biology, combustion, hydrodynamics, and general industrial problems. Rapid progress in the development of new techniques and in the improvement of old ones is leading to an ever-increasing complexity of design and possible wastage of effort, and the stage has been reached for critical assessments to be made by the leading authorities of each field.

The editor and publishers are to be congratulated for the speed with which the volume has been produced. It seems advisable, however, for future organizing committees to consider standardization of the published proceedings. For example, the size of the volumes of the first, second and third proceedings have been 9 in. × 6 in., 11½ in. × 8½ in. and 10 in. × 6 in., respectively, while the corresponding languages were English, English/French/German, and English.

N. DOMBROWSKI

Chemistry of Carbon Compounds

A Modern Comprehensive Treatise. Edited by Dr. E. H. Rodd. Vol. 3, Part B: Aromatic Compounds. Pp. xx+687-1669. (Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company; London: Cleaver-Hume Press, Ltd., 1956.) £8 10s.

THE present volume of this series continues and completes the description of the benzenoid class of organic compounds. Again the choice of compounds in this vast field has had to be discreetly limited, but again a most useful source book has resulted. As well as describing recent work on the more familiar benzenoid systems, the volume also deals with the new aromatic systems involving seven- and five-membered carbocyclic rings. As usual, the index is excellent.

R. A. RAPHAEL