

sibility, as professional men and women, in safeguarding the public.

"The Opium Problem" is comprehensive and of value to every library, because information on the subject of addiction is sought, at times, in every city, by lawyers, legislators, physicians, pharmacists, teachers and students. The subject is treated under the following divisions: Extent of Addiction, Development of the Problem, Etiology, General Nature; Pathology—Somatic and Psychic Changes, Tolerance, Dependence, Withdrawal; Symptomatology, Types of Users, Treatment; Control—International, National, State, Municipal, Miscellaneous Suggestions, and concluded with a Bibliography and an Index.

It might be added here that "The Compilation of Food and Drug Laws" by the Proprietary Association, and "Dunn's Food and Drug Laws" are additional sources of information on laws and regulations that apply to the manufacture, sale and dispensing of narcotics.

*Handbuch der Biologischen Arbeitsmethoden*, "Handbook of Biological Methods."—Edited by PROF. DR. EMIL ABDERHALDEN. Section 259. Price 5 marks. "Preliminary Biological Examination of Unknown Drugs." By JOHN GRONBERG-HELSINGFORS. Urban & Schwarzenberg. 1928.

This interesting pamphlet comprising some ninety pages deals broadly with some of the methods employed by the pharmacologist, using the term again in the broad sense of the word, in starting an investigation of an unknown substance or chemical from the pharmacological or toxicological point of view. The book is by no means complete but has some interesting information on a few select topics. The methods here described are often somewhat antiquated and some of them have been supplanted by more accurate and useful forms of experimentation. The chief value of this essay consists in some of the original technic employed by the author John Gronberg and useful information may be gleaned also from some experimental data adduced by that writer. The beginner or tyro in pharmacological investigation will find this monograph of considerable interest and usefulness in some respects. Thus for instance a good deal of space is devoted to a description of methods employed by the author in investigating narcotic and hypnotic drugs and the same may be said of anthelmintic drugs. On the other hand the chapter devoted to exami-

nation of antiseptics is very elementary and the same may be said of the section on purgatives. The monograph is certainly not very comprehensive or well balanced. It is evident that the writer has expatiated chiefly concerning the drugs with which he has been personally engaged. That is, however, not the purpose of a handbook for biological methods.

D. I. M.

*Handbuch der Biologischen Arbeitsmethoden*, "Handbook of Biological Methods."—Edited by PROF. DR. EMIL ABDERHALDEN. Section 251. Price 7 marks. "List of Toxic and Lethal Doses of Some Poisons." By F. FLURY and FRANZ ZERNIK-WURZBURG. Urban & Schwarzenberg. 1928.

This section of the well-known handbook on methods edited by Abderhalden comprises some one hundred and thirty pages and consists almost entirely of tables giving the toxic and lethal doses of different drugs and various animals. The material herein collected is not an original one but is the result of an extensive search through the literature. The tables indicate the authors whose figures are quoted and also give the more important literary references. This book will be found useful by the pharmacologist using the term in the broad sense of the word as defined by the reviewer elsewhere in this journal and also by toxicologists. The information here found will be used by the scientist with a grain of salt because every pharmacologist is quite aware that the question of dosage is not a hard and fast one especially in connection with animal experimentation and will be more or less modified by various conditions. The book contains information concerning drugs which are not very familiar to many physicians, and on the other hand all information concerning other compounds in which a research man may be interested will often be lacking. Thus, for instance, one can find here figures concerning the toxicity of cobra venom, cicutoxin, euphorin and yet there is a deplorable lack of available information, for instance, concerning many of the newer organic mercurials. German synthetics are found here in abundance but well-known drugs of foreign origin are often found missing. Altogether the book, however, will be a useful one to have on the shelves of the specialist in pharmacology and toxicology.

D. I. M.

*Chemistry in Medicine*. A coöperative treatise intended to give examples of progress made