

Book Reviews

This book is vividly written, beautifully illustrated and should prove to be widely popular. There is a useful glossary for the lay reader.

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Kremer's and Urdang's History of Pharmacy, third edition, revised by Glenn Sonnedecker, Philadelphia and Montreal, J. B. Lippincott Company (London, Pitman), 1964, pp. viii, 464, 95 figures, 80s.

Of current Histories of Pharmacy this is probably the most ambitious. It includes a short account of 'Pharmacy's Early Antecedents', substantial chapters on the 'Rise of Professional Pharmacy in Europe', an account of the general international situation in pharmacy, as well as ample information concerning the practice of pharmacy in North America. The reader has much to digest if he is to derive the maximum benefit from the work that has gone into the compilation of this, the third edition of *Kremer's and Urdang's History of Pharmacy*. In this revised edition Glenn Sonnedecker, Professor of the History of Pharmacy in the University of Wisconsin and Director of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, evidently decided that nothing less than a careful re-writing with many additions would serve his purpose. His former teachers, the original authors Edward Kremer and George Urdang, both blazed a trail which Sonnedecker has followed and extended. This is especially noticeable when comparing the editions of 1940 and 1951 with the present volume. The text has been expanded, particularly regarding North America, and in the details of current international fields there is much new and valuable material. The work has thus grown by at least a third, and there are 6 additional Appendices. To gain space for some of the new matter the details about Spanish pharmacy have had to be omitted. New illustrations supplement those of the former editions and the number of figures is now 95. No list of these, however, has been provided, and the interest they add to the text would have been enhanced if they could have been readily found.

It is in the field of pharmacy in the U.S.A. that readers will perhaps find themselves literally in a new world, that is unless they have kept themselves in touch with the history of the American colonies and have not forgotten the tremendous influence of the fresh waves of European immigrants that at one time almost threatened to overwhelm the established population. The newcomers were not without their own skills and experience of pharmaceutical practice and it is clear that the variations they brought to the U.S.A. had an important bearing upon the ways in which pharmacy developed there. What place has the pharmacist in the everyday life of the people? The reader will find much to show him how the pharmacist, whether in the 'corner drug store' or in industry, assists in the promotion of health and the place he has made for himself in the political and social affairs of the nation. Indeed, it is one of the author's theories, which the text well illustrates, that it is the pharmacist who by his standards of education and his scientific training and outlook can and does play an important part in the growth of any developing nation. The examples he gives will repay study, and the case for the pharmacist to take an active part in the world around him is more than justified.

The author has enlisted the help of pharmaceutical historians of note in his revision and his acknowledgments are generous. The work is written with an informed enthusiasm which will carry conviction. Altogether it provides a conspectus of the growth of pharmacy in many spheres and it should attract a wider readership than the tyro or the established practitioner of medicine and pharmacy.

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