

BOOK REVIEWS

ÄRZTLICHE KOSMETIK, Edited by Prof. Dr. H. Th. Schreus. Dr. Alfred Hüthig Verlag, Heidelberg. 1957. 169 pages. Price DM 26.

This is the fourth volume of the series "Ärztliche Kosmetik." It contains the papers (with discussions) delivered at the 1956 congress of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Aesthetische Medizin und ihre Grenzgebiete (German Society of Esthetic Medicine and Its Border Areas) in Berlin. Like its predecessors, this volume lists several papers of interest to the cosmetic chemist, the others dealing mostly with problems of dermatology and plastic surgery.

A paper by H. Ippen discusses the damaging action upon the skin of sunlight, and reviews the means of its prevention. Certain ingredients of cosmetics may be involved in producing photosensitization, also a variety of more or less serious sequelae. Reference is made to the following: melano-derma caused by incompletely refined grades of petrolatum (and due to their tarry impurities); *photodermatitis bullosa striata*, due to the furocumarin content of numerous plants; Berloque-dermatitis caused by oil of bergamot, a widely used component of colognes and perfumes; and others of lesser significance. As to the protection against skin damage by sunlight, the author tested and evaluated some three dozen finished preparations available on the German market, but without finding "the ideal protective agent."

In a review paper on contact dermatitis from cosmetics, H. C. Friederich emphasizes, among other things, the fallacy of the "*post hoc ergo propter hoc*" principle in dealing with this problem. With respect to therapy he cautions against hazards of cross-sensitization by medicaments exhibiting a primary amino-group in the para-position (e.g., novocain, procain-penicillin, *p*-aminosulfonamide); where an exacerbation has been produced by a superimposed bacterial infection, the employment of suitable antibiotics (e.g., a combination of neomycin and bacitracin) is recommended as being free of any risk of sensitizing the individual against antibiotics which may have to be administered parenterally at a later date. A sensitive skin should be cleansed with due regard for the preservation of its normal physiological condition; cleansing agents from the class of protein-fatty acid condensates are effective as well as harmless.

In a brief paper, J. Zinzius recommends the continuous and regular use of a placental preparation ("Placentubex") for the treatment of the wrinkled "senile hand." —EMIL G. KLARMANN, Lehn & Fink Products Corp.

INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COSMETIC MATERIAL TRADE NAMES, by Maison G. deNavarre. Moore Publishing Company, Inc., New York 18, N. Y. 1957. 369 pages. Price \$7.50.

This reference book, which is correctly called an encyclopedia, lists cosmetic material trade names together with a brief description of each one, a classification according to usage, and a directory of the manufacturers. Over 3000 materials are listed alphabetically and are also cross-indexed by types and uses. In many instances the materials lack the desired qualitative description. This circumstance is to some degree understandable, particularly in instances where the item is a mixture, a by-product or its identity is intended to be kept secret by the producer. Those who have had the frustrating experience of trying to locate a trade name material with only a vague notion of what it is or where it may be purchased can recognize the enormous task performed in compiling this encyclopedia. Not only will the book save time in locating trade name materials but its use might very well avoid the possibility of a chemist overlooking a specific type material needed.

Time and business march on and as the number of trade name materials are introduced, old ones withdraw from sale and manufacturers' addresses are changed, it is quite possible that the author will publish a yearly supplement or bring out a new edition every other year.

This encyclopedia is definitely a must for every cosmetic laboratory.—WALTER A. TAYLOR.

SCHIMMEL BRIEFS, Volume II, Years 1951-1956. Schimmel and Company, Inc., New York 1, N. Y. 1957. Price \$10.00.

The acceptance of Volume I by the cosmetic industry and other interested readers promises success for the present volume.

The pages are not numbered but the "Briefs" follow in their numerical sequence starting with Number 190, January, 1951, through Number 261, December, 1956. These "Briefs" cover practically every cosmetic item, effect or result, such as astringency, hair lacquer aerosols and heat stability of polyoxyethylene emulsifiers.

Current literature is digested along with pertinent patents. Some Briefs are a careful discussion of a group of relevant patents on a given subject, for example "Progress in Permanent Waving."

While the Briefs are mailed monthly to a world wide audience, printed on one side for cutting up and filing, having them in bound form now makes them available as a ready library reference. The editor (who is unnamed) and the publisher are to be complimented for this effort.

A complete index and cross index appears at the end of the book, making for easy location of topical material.

A must for any cosmetic library.—
M. G. DENAVARRE.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE CHEMICAL PROCESS INDUSTRIES, by Jeffrey R. Stewart. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York 10, N. Y. 1956. 820 pages, 9 × 6 inches. Price \$12.

Everything from raw materials, processes, equipment and finished products of the chemical process industries is included, according to the book jacket.

Most materials mentioned show a source of supply but some do not. The definitions of substances, processes or equipment are usually adequate although some are unnecessarily long and complicated, as fatty acids.

A valuable inclusion is a series

of definitions dealing with the many facets of color and coloring.

It is interesting to note that nylon is not a trade mark name.

The addenda are also useful in this compilation.

A good book, not overpriced and generally useful.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

DICTIONARY OF MICROBIOLOGY, by M. B. Jacobs, M. Gerstein and W. G. Walter. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., Princeton, N. J. 1957. 276 pages, size 6 × 9 inches, illustrated. Price \$6.75.

Over five thousand entries cover every phase of microbiology. Many unusual words are defined; culture media are described, methods and apparatus are mentioned.

The material appears complete. The definitions are concise.

The book fills a need and will find a place on the reference shelves of many cosmetic libraries.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

DAS HAAR, by Anton Hopfl. Bayerischen Schulbuch Verlag, Munich 19, Germany. 1955. 76 pages, size 6 × 8, illustrated (in German).

A compilation of over 100 illustrations of various facets of the microscopy of hair. Covered are: skin, hair growth, hair waving and dyeing

and a very brief chapter of three pages on nails.

The text describes the illustrations. An excellent reference book.—M. G. DENAVARRE.

COMMERCIAL WAXES, edited by H. Bennett. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York 10, N. Y. 1956. 699 pages, size 5½ × 8½ inches, illustrated and indexed. Price \$15.

A revision of an earlier edition, bringing up to date the data covered previously.

A hundred thirteen pages are devoted to petroleum and hydrocarbon waxes. The section appears to be well done. The vegetable waxes include the main commercial ones. The material is not intended to be as extensive and thorough as Warth's "Chemistry and Technology of Waxes," but it is adequate. A few pages are devoted to fatty acids, which seem out of place since they are not waxes in any sense. The data on fatty acids can be misleading since there are so many types within one source of supply and there are quite a few sources. The same comments apply to fatty acid esters described. In addition it is unfortunate only one brand of these esters is described in detail when others are widely used.—M. G. DENAVARRE.