

## REVIEWS.

GERMAN-ENGLISH DICTIONARY FOR CHEMISTS. By AUSTIN M. PATTERSON, Ph.D. Pp. xvi + 316. (New York: John Wiley and Sons. London: Chapman and Hall, 1917.) Price 9s. 6d.

CHEMICAL FRENCH. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF FRENCH CHEMICAL LITERATURE. By M. L. DOLT, Ph.D. Pp. viii + 398. Easton, Pa.: The Chemical Publishing Co. London: Williams and Norgate, 1918.) Price 15s.

Ability to read French and German is an asset of great value to the chemist, and although a short-sighted policy of ostracism in regard to the latter language has been advocated in some quarters, the chemist simply cannot afford to neglect it, if he is to make effective use of the past and current literature of his science. It is the aim of the volumes under review to facilitate his equipment in this particular direction and to enable him to read scientific and technical matter in either language without undue difficulty or delay.

The two books, however, are designed to meet the needs of quite different persons. Dr. Patterson's compact dictionary, of almost pocket size, is for those who already have some knowledge of the German language and grammar, but do not command the requisite vocabulary of special technical terms. It is a workmanlike and serviceable production, based not only on existing large technical dictionaries, but on a fresh examination of text-books, journals, and dealers' catalogues. The author's previous experience as editor of "Chemical Abstracts" stands him in good stead, and is a guarantee that so far as the names of inorganic and organic compounds are concerned the information given is sound and trustworthy. In this connexion the portion of the introduction dealing with nomenclature will be found useful.

A novel and practical feature is the inclusion of German abbreviations, not only the usually occurring ones such as "u.s.w." and "z.B.," but also those occasionally encountered in chemical literature, as, for example, "wl.," "Kp.," and "u.zers.," these are entered in the vocabulary as if the letters composing them formed a word. Inspection shows that the list of contractions thus included is fairly exhaustive, and the only one the omission of which has been noticed is "resp.," a frequent source of trouble to inexperienced readers of German literature.

The characteristically German practice of using compounds of two or more ordinary words presents difficulties to the compiler of an abridged dictionary, for it is clearly impossible, without enormous increase of bulk, to include more than a part of the words of this class. It is comparatively easy to find compound words which are omitted from the present volume, such as "silurebestimmdig.," "Windsichtung," and the priceless "Molekulargewichtsbestimmungsmethoden," but Dr. Patterson has deliberately left a good deal to common sense, and included only those general compound words which occur most commonly, and special technical terms such as "Bleicherde," "Anlaufarbe.," "Tonbrel.," "Blauholz," and "totgebrannt." As regards technical terms generally, the preface hints that some of the chemical industries may appear to be inadequately represented in the vocabulary. This is attributed to the fact that relevant glossaries are not available and to the present difficulty of obtaining German books.

Prof. Dolt's volume has the double aim of providing the beginner with elementary instruction in the French language and of furnishing an introduction to the study of French chemical literature. This second object, which is served by the repro-

duction of original articles by well-known chemists, such as Berthelot, Grignard, and Sabatier, is praiseworthy enough, and in this respect the volume should prove both interesting and valuable to the chemical student who has already acquired a general working acquaintance with the language.

It seems a pity that an effort has been made, in the opening chapters, to include also elementary instruction in French. One curious result of this attempt to achieve in one volume two objects which had much better been kept distinct, is the appearance of the closing passage from Madame Curie's account of researches on radio-active substances, in juxtaposition with a table of irregular verbs.

Acquaintance with the French language and grammar should be acquired, in the reviewer's opinion, in the course of general education. The idea, implied in the title of Prof. Dolt's volume, that chemists should proceed to familiarity with French along a special path, is fundamentally unsound, and leads to all sorts of absurdities. If a professor of chemistry is required to write on chemical French, there appears to be no limit to the number of similar volumes that might be produced, designed to meet the needs of the geologist, the botanist, the engineer and others.

JAMES C. PHILIP.

## OBITUARY.

D. C. BENDIX.

Born November, 1856.—Died June, 1918.

We regret to record the death of David C. Bendix, Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, an original member of the Society of Chemical Industry, and for many years an abstractor for this Journal. The whole period of his business career was passed at Silvertown, London, E., where he was associated first with Messrs. Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., and afterwards with The British Alizarine Co., Ltd., with which firm he was connected for thirty-two years as head chemist and works manager.

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The Editor would be pleased to consider original articles from Members of the Society and others, with a view to their insertion in the Review. They should be clearly written (preferably type-written) on one side of the paper only, and if a reply is wanted, a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed. The Editor would also be pleased to receive relevant news or notes, but the sources of information must always be stated. Contributions of either kind will be paid for, but in the event of duplication only the earliest received and published will be recognised.

To secure prompt attention, all communications concerning the contents of the Review, and notices of forthcoming meetings, should be sent direct to: The Review Editor, Society of Chemical Industry, Central House, Finsbury Square, E.C. 2. [Telephone: London Wall, No. 4240. Telegraphic Address: Induchem, Finsquare, London.]