

The chief merit of Sanford's book lies in the fact that he has collected and presented more information regarding analytical methods than is, to my knowledge, to be found in any one place, and if he had given his entire thought and attention to the elaboration of this material he would have produced a book of value and one which must have contributed to his professional reputation. As it is he has given us a crude work.

I am especially sorry to give this adverse opinion of his book, since Mr. Sanford quotes more freely from and oftener gives credit to American investigators than any other European writer on this subject.

CHARLES E. MUNROE.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF WATER ANALYSIS, ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH. BY JOHN C. THRESH, M.D., D.Sc. 49 pages. 1897. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., and London: John A. Churchill. Price 88 cents.

The book before us is one intended to so simplify the method of water analysis as to bring them within the power of the "Medical officers of health for rural districts" to accomplish, any such officer being "well aware that unless he himself can undertake the work it must remain undone."

The analytical processes described "require no specially fitted laboratory, and only the simplest possible apparatus," and the analysis "can be conducted in the neighborhood of the well or other source of supply."

The chemicals used are in the form of "Soloids" each containing exactly the requisite quantity, and they remind one of the "Fehling's Test" capsules now supplied to the medical profession.

That the book can fulfil any useful mission in this country is exceedingly doubtful. The processes described can give but approximate results at the best, and are such as would not be acceptable to a health officer were he a chemist, for the sufficient reason that he would be in a position to employ more exact methods. Should the officer in question not be a chemist he would be wise to omit analytical examination entirely, and content himself with a careful sanitary survey of the surroundings of the source of supply.

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