

nell, Cleveland, O., and Andrew S. McCreath, Harrisburg, Pa.

These samples may be obtained of Thos. D. West, chairman, Sharpsville, Pa.

E. H.

NOTICE.

The regular monthly meetings of the New York Section will be held in the Chemical Lecture Room of the College of the City of New York, 17 Lexington Avenue, at 8.15 P.M. on the following dates: January 13; February 9; March 9; April 7; May 5; June 9. All chemists who may be visiting New York on the dates named are cordially invited to attend these meetings.

WM. MCMURTRIE.

NEW BOOKS.

SOAPS. A practical manual of the manufacture of domestic, toilet, and other soaps. BY GEORGE H. HURST, F.C.S. London: Scott, Greenwood & Co.; New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. Price, \$5.00.

Nearly half this book is devoted to the raw materials used in the manufacture of soap. This part is very comprehensive, containing even a chapter on water as a soap material; at the same time no space is given to technically useless descriptions of those fats and oils, which are but rarely used in soap manufacture, while the position of the commoner fats in the scale of usefulness is clearly stated.

Considering the admirable arrangement of this part of the work, it is to be regretted that it is not more accurate, especially in the chemistry of the fats, for though the author has inserted abundant simple formulas and equations, many passages show that the material has been hastily compiled from the various works on this subject; for instance, with a little thought the author would have avoided the erroneous statement made on page 117 that the proportion of solid fatty acids in tallow is *increased* by the addition of cottonseed-oil stearin. Again, lard is said to contain thirty-five to forty per cent. of stearin with small quantities of palmitin, while actually, as a more careful search into the literature of this subject would have shown, the palmitin in lard is largely in excess of the stearin. Such errors are common in works on this subject, but it is time that they were weeded out.