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**Dictionary of Dietetics.** *Rhoda Ellis.* Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 1956. 152 pp. \$6.00.

The definitions, comments and notations in this dictionary are evidently directed to employees with limited technical training who work in dietary departments. Most of the terms defined are related to human pathological states, diets prescribed for these states, or the management of a hospital dietary service. The text is admirable in brevity, clarity and in the type chosen, although in some instances good English usage has been sacrificed to economy. The chemical terms sometimes miss the point of interest to biologists, for example, citrulline is defined as a yellow amorphous plant resin, but it is more familiar to dietitians as a member of the cycle by which amino acids are relieved of their nitrogen component in the liver. Occasionally they are highly technical and in a few cases, simply incorrect, for instance hydrolysis is defined as "the chemical breakdown of a compound to another compound and water." In defining such diseases as diarrhoea, the treatment described is necessarily sketchy and of doubtful value to an uninformed reader.

The dictionary should serve a useful purpose in acquainting non-professional hospital employees with many of the strange medical terms involved daily in the work of a dietary department.

INEZ PRUDENT

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**Chemical Engineering Kinetics.** *J. M. Smith.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. First Edition, 1956. ix+402 pp. \$8.00.

This book deals with the engineering problems encountered in the design and operation of large scale reactors. It presupposes a knowledge of the elements of heat and mass transfer processes and some background in chemical thermodynamics. The underlying theory and the necessary technical tools are presented in the early chapters. These are followed by a discussion of reactor design beginning with the construction features and general design principles of several types of reactors each of which is then discussed in detail. New advances in interpreting catalytic reactions, particularly those occurring on solid catalysts are summarized and the important problem of diffusion in pores of solid catalysts is treated in a simplified, detailed fashion.

The book is well suited as a text for the fourth year of undergraduate work or for the first year of graduate work. The practicing engineer will also find it a convenient reference to the basic principles of reactor design. The inclusion of numerical illustrative examples throughout the book adds greatly to the clarity and understanding of the text.

WEBSTER B. KAY