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Book Notice

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The brief histories of certain poisonous chemicals and plants as found throughout the volume are very interesting as is the review of poisons to be found on pages three through seven. A list of substances, arranged alphabetically from Acetanilide to Zinc-containing-compounds, is given, each having the subheadings usually followed by the admonition to call a physician (which should be done first when possible.)

There is a question in the mind of the reviewer as for whom the book was written. Apparently it was not for professional medical personnel, as judged from the nature of the information. In all too many situations the antidote consists of administration of Universal Antidote, followed by an emetic. (The value of Universal Antidote is open to question.) There are some obvious errors and omissions, for example, there is a question about the recommended use of an emetic after bromine or hydrogen peroxide is taken internally. Hydrogen cyanide or hydrocyanic acid is listed with the Acids. The antidotes for acids which follows would be of little or no value; this is also applicable to oxalic acid. Reference is made to the list of materials to be found in the cleaning closet yet no antidotes are to be found for such items as metal polishes and bleaches.

There is a subsection devoted to Barbiturates but the layman does not know which compounds belong to this classification and there are no cross references for specific compounds.

This book will be of value only to laymen trained in First Aid and its use to them is limited.

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