

Book Reviews

English pharmaceutical historians cannot but be jealous that German archives can produce a document dating back to 1437, the year in which Duke Adolf asked Apotheker Meister Johan Vos to settle in Cleves and there conduct a good pharmacy. Full details of the agreement between the two men are given, even to the point that Vos would wear the Duke's livery. Equally fascinating are the uses to which the land registers and mortgage books of the eighteenth century could be put. Maps have been drawn of the towns of Wesel, Cleves, and Duisburg, showing where each pharmacy was positioned and the changes that took place. One can even learn that Apotheker Georg Martin Wittfeld of Orsay took his citizen's oath on 24 October 1768, lived with his family in house No. 130, had a maid, and was joined by a partner in 1782.

Cornelia Sonntag qualified as a pharmacist in June 1979 from the university of Bonn and then proceeded to the Institute for the History of Pharmacy at Marburg University. It is doubtful if our own young pharmacists with leanings towards research in pharmaceutical history would receive an equal degree of encouragement.

J. G. L. Burnby
Wirksworth, Derbyshire

KURT HOFIUS, *Rezeptjournale der Ratsapotheke Lehrte von 1899 und 1930*, (Veröffentlichungen aus dem Pharmaziegeschichtlichen Seminar der Technischen Universität Braunschweig, vol. 24), Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. x, 65, DM. 10.00 (paperback).

Having earlier studied the prescription records of the Minoritenkloster in Duisburg for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Hofius has continued his research by carefully analysing the entries in the prescription books of the *Ratsapotheke* in Lehrte for 1899 and 1930. Commencing with a brief history of the *Ratsapotheke*, the author draws attention to the marked difference between the number of drugs and preparations mentioned in contemporary pharmacopoeias and those actually used in daily practice. Fortunately, as the physicians initially recorded their requirements for their patients in the daybook of the *Ratsapotheke* and, later, prescriptions were also so recorded, the daybook provides a true record of the daily practice of pharmacy.

In this account the drugs and preparations have, for convenience, been classified according to the system adopted by Schneider (1978), a system separating simple and compound drugs into two groups which are further sub-divided according to origin, e.g. plant, animal, pharmaceutical processing, chemical manufacture, etc. From the many resultant tables presented in the book, the author has drawn interesting conclusions concerning the changing patterns of drug usage, e.g. the decline in the employment of animal and, later, plant products, the rise in the importance of organic chemical pharmaceuticals, etc. In addition, the author discusses in some detail the preparations produced by the early pharmaceutical industry, e.g. antipyretics, antirheumatics, skin preparations, and tannin-containing preparations, as well as reference to the later importance of aspirin and phenacetin. Narcotic drug usage is also considered and mention made of drug misuse.

To anyone interested in the tremendous changes in medical/pharmaceutical practice in the past 250 years, this detailed study offers valuable scientific and statistical evidence and ideas for future work.

W. E. Court
University of Bradford

IRIS RENNER, *Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte der Pharmakognosie*, Stuttgart, Deutscher Apotheker Verlag, 1982, 8vo, pp. 377, [no price stated].

Pharmacognosy owes its origins to the study of medicinal plants as part of the medical curriculum and the need for specialists in the art of recognition and standardization of such plants. The Bavarian Ludwig-Maximilian University was rooted in Ingolstadt, transferring to Landshut in 1800 and to Munich in 1826. In the historical account presented by Iris Renner, the