

BOOK REVIEWS : BOEKBESPREKINGS

FOREIGN ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN THE BODY

Detoxication Mechanisms. 2nd edition, revised and enlarged. By R. T. Williams, Ph.D. (Wales), D.Sc. (Birmingham). Pp. x + 796. £6 6s. 0d. net. London: Chapman & Hall Ltd. 1959.

The interval between the first edition of this book, produced in 1945, and the present edition has been characterized by a very rapid and remarkable increase in our knowledge of the fate of foreign organic compounds in the animal body. The book has therefore been completely rewritten and is 2½ times its former size. The chemicals considered include drugs, insecticides and other pesticides, colouring agents, artificial flavouring agents and

anti-oxidants used in foods, industrial solvents, dry-cleaning agents, and other compounds. The metabolism and detoxication of these substances have been studied with a view to explaining toxicity and drug action, the prevention of toxic action, and the enzymic mechanisms involved. The application of the knowledge has been effective in the fields of industrial toxicology and therapeutics. There is full reference to the literature, numerous formulae and tables, and author and subject index. This volume, dealing with the biochemistry of foreign organic compounds, is 'no mere directory but a systematic exposition of a fascinating subject'.
N.S.