

In our opinion, much more research and many practical experiments on a large scale are needed before a book on the practical advantages to be derived from Mendelian methods can, with advantage, be presented to breeders, since premature assertion of the utility of a theory tends to alienate the practical man, and to destroy his confidence in the value of science.

THE INDEXING OF CHEMICAL LITERATURE.

General Index to the Chemical News. Vols. i to c. Pp. 712. (London: *Chemical News* Office, 1913.) Price 2l.

IN compiling an index of chemical literature on anything like a large scale numberless difficult problems are encountered at the outset. The question as to whether authors and subjects should be divided or not is usually answered in the affirmative and with good reason. The inquirer generally knows whether he wishes to refer to an author's name or to some subject, and it is undoubtedly a help to be able to turn with certainty to one section or the other.

The mere alphabetical arrangement of authors' names would appear to be simple, but the greatest difficulty is often experienced if any effort is to be made to secure that individual authors are to be properly identified with their work.

An index of subjects offers even more problems to be considered. Over an extended period of years, changes of nomenclature are bound to occur, and the same compound is often described under two or even three synonyms. Is the indexer to record the names as they stand, or is he to use the modern name only, and index all older varieties or synonyms under that? In view of the fact that authors rarely know even the rudiments of nomenclature, and seldom consider whether it is correct to write, *e.g.*, caustic soda, sodium hydrate, or sodium hydroxide, it would appear that the only possible thing to do in such a case is to decide on "sodium hydroxide," and index all references to "caustic soda" or "sodium hydrate" under it. With organic compounds the case is much more difficult, but the point has, perhaps, been sufficiently illustrated.

The index under review is one that will be necessary to every reader of the *Chemical News*, and, indeed, will be useful to all chemists, giving, as it does, references to so many subjects, such as university intelligence, &c., which are found in perhaps no other chemical journal.

The advisability of putting authors and subjects together is a matter of opinion, but the searcher after names will turn over with some im-

patience the 35 pages which separate "Bonz" and "Booth."

The identification of certain authors—for example, "Mr. Brown" and "Dr. Schmidt"—must be difficult, as there are twenty-nine "Browns" and twenty "Schmidts." This, of course, illustrates a common failing of authors of not putting their full names to their papers.

The German "ü" is taken as "u" throughout. This, we believe, is the custom of the British Museum, but to mix up "Mullers" and "Müllers" is, in our opinion, obviously incorrect.

As regards the subjects the list of books reviewed, which occupies the thirty-five pages just mentioned, is very valuable, and so are the collected references to many other matters of general chemical interest, but it is really regrettable that some effort has not been made to avoid duplicate headings; this is the chief fault we have to find with the book. Under "acids" we have "chlorhydric" and "hydrochloric," "cyanhydric" and "hydrocyanic," "naphtholsulphonic" and "naphtholic sulpho," "bioxybenzoic," "dioxybenzoic," and "dihydroxybenzoic," with no cross-references from one to the other. Entries are also to be found, again without cross-references, under acid, carbolic, and phenol, aldehyde, anisic, and anis-aldehyde, alizarin, nitro-, and nitalizarin, carbamide and urea, benzalacetophenone and benzylidene acetophenone, benzene, benzine, and benzol, carbon bisulphide, disulphide, and sulphide, and many others.

Cross-references there are indeed, but many are unnecessary; particularly "Amyl-diethacetate, cinn-." See Cinnamyl-diethacetate."

In a work of this kind misprints are almost inevitable, but a little more care in the proof-reading might have avoided such mistakes as "alicali earth metals," "alsohols," "eperiments," "methylsalysilic," &c.

J. C. C.

PETROLOGY AND BUILDING STONES.

- (1) *The Petrology of the Sedimentary Rocks.* By Dr. F. H. Hatch and R. H. Rastall. With an Appendix on the Systematic Examination of Loose Detrital Sediments by T. Crook. Pp. xiii + 425. (London: George Allen and Co., Ltd., 1913.) Price 7s. 6d. net.
- (2) *Building Stones and Clay-Products: A Handbook for Architects.* By Prof. Heinrich Ries. Pp. xv + 415 + lix plates. (New York: John Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1912.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

(1) **S**INCE the days of Sorby much useful work has been done on the less-altered sedimentary rocks—by Hill, Jukes-Browne, and Hume,