

example, Figs. 59 and 69), the reproductive organs in plants, and in the more important classes of the animal kingdom, can be studied in any elementary text-book of biology, with this advantage, that they are there set forth with correctness of detail. A short account of the cellular basis of living organisms, with a clear description of the differences between asexual and sexual reproduction, oviparous and viviparous development, would have been sufficient introduction to the study of the question in man. The great difficulty which the average individual naturally experiences in visualising, with any clearness, the position and relation of the organs of the body, makes it absolutely essential that these points should be illustrated by careful, large-scale drawings. Isolated diagrams of partially dissected systems, such as are given in this book, convey nothing to the untrained mind.

H. E. B.

*The Principles of Petrology: an Introduction to the Science of Rocks.* By M. G. W. Tyrrell. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1926). 10s. net.

This is the first of a geological series of books to be published under the general editorship of Prof. J. W. Gregory. Two others are promised. After reading the book one feels that the author could himself have contributed three separate books on petrology. In this small volume, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks are all dealt with, and the space is quite inadequate to the subject. The author is very widely read, as his numerous and excellent abstracts published in *Science Progress* prove, and he has endeavoured to include in his book every recent contribution to the science of petrology. It is indeed, to quote the author's preface, "a conspectus of the present state of the science of petrology," but it is a little doubtful whether the workers in other branches of geology or "students who have acquired an elementary knowledge of the science" will know quite how much to believe when they have read it all.

The descriptive parts of the book are very clear. Metamorphic rocks are dealt with in seven chapters describing the various processes and their products. Only six chapters can be devoted to "Secondary" rocks, classified as residual, sedimentary, and chemical. Good chapters under Part I. (Igneous Rocks) describe forms and structures, and textures and microstructures. The author develops some of his own ideas on classification, and has some very interesting remarks on distribution in space and time. The suggestion to use the terms 'kindreds,' 'tribes,' and 'clans' for groups or series of rocks showing different degrees of close relationship may be useful if every one uses the terms in the same sense.

*Soviet Union Year-Book, 1927.* Compiled and edited by A. A. Santalov and Dr. Louis Segal. Pp. xxiii + 453. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1927). 7s. 6d. net.

WITHIN reasonable compass this well-arranged volume gives a great deal of information about present conditions in Russian territories in Europe

and Asia. The extensive bibliography of Russian works indicates that the facts and figures have been taken from the most recent official sources. No other than Russian publications find a place in the list. The agriculture, mineral resources, and trade of the Soviet Union are treated in great detail. The regulations for foreign trade are given, and particular attention is paid to the trade with Great Britain. Another section explains the policy and gives the regulations for concessions and the attraction of foreign capital to Russia. Many pages are devoted to the political organisation and the constitution of the Soviet Union, the regulations for labour, the organisation of finances, and the principal clauses of the civil code. In fact, the volume is an authoritative treatise on the country and as such is of considerable interest. It is mainly a statement of fact, and very few expressions of opinions have crept in. There are two coloured and two black-and-white maps. The present volume is the third annual issue.

*Properties of Inorganic Substances: a Second Revision and Enlargement of Tables of Properties of over Fifteen Hundred Common Inorganic Substances.* By Wilhelm Segerblom. Pp. 226. (New York: The Chemical Catalog Co., Inc., 1927.) 6 dollars.

ORIGINALLY published in 1909 and revised in 1916, these handy tables for the working bench have now been considerably enlarged by the inclusion of new descriptive matter and by the treatment of some hundreds of additional substances. The arrangement is convenient, the abbreviations are self-explanatory, the letterpress clear, and the paper serviceable. Not the least useful part of the book is the index, which includes the common names of the compounds referred to in the tables. With the exception of some forty pages devoted to non-metals and rare metals, the scope of the compilation is confined to the metals and acids commonly employed in the study of qualitative analytical chemistry.

A. A. E.

*Pheasant Jungles.* By William Beebe. Pp. xiii + 248 + 47 plates. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1927.) 3 dollars.

MR. HERR, who is Director of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society, travelled to Ceylon, India, Burma, the Malay States, and Borneo to search for rare pheasants and to study their habits. The results of his explorations have been published in technical papers. The present book deals with a few of his adventures, and is not a connected account of his travels. The reader receives an impression of a cheerful and intrepid explorer, who was undaunted by any dangers, difficulties, or hardships. His success was probably chiefly due to his sympathy with the wild tribes who live in the remote jungles that harbour the rarer pheasants. Without their help he could scarcely have reached his goal.

Mr. Beebe has generous praise for the few British who administer the remote jungle areas, and whose methods of handling the native races won his admiration.