

in linking up the many constellation diagrams, a few of which appear somewhat redundant. Finally, it should be remarked that the volume is essentially a gift-book, with its large print, heavy paper, and choice reproductions, and it will be unfortunate if its cost should deter any one from possessing a copy or placing one in the hands of a friend.

*Handbuch der biologischen Arbeitsmethoden.* Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Emil Abderhalden. Lieferung 220, Band 11: *Chemische, physikalische und physikalisch-chemische Methoden zur Untersuchung des Bodens und der Pflanze*, Teil 3, Heft 5. *Ernährung und Stoffwechsel der Pflanzen. Methoden der mikrobiologischen Bodenforschung.* Von Selman A. Waksman. Pp. 715-864. (Berlin und Wien: Urban und Schwarzenberg, 1927.) 7.20 gold marks.

THE study of the activities of soil micro-organisms is of comparatively recent origin, and consequently the methods employed for such researches are not well known, and in many cases have not attained the degree of standardisation necessary for comparative investigations. This is particularly the case with regard to the numerous methods employed for counting the numbers of soil bacteria, protozoa, fungi, or algae, and for estimating the degree of activity of such members of the soil population. The present part of Abderhalden's "Handbuch" should prove exceedingly useful to soil investigators. S. A. Waksman has acted as general editor and has contributed the mycology and bacteriology sections, with the exception of that on cellulose decomposition, which is written by Chr. Barthel of Stockholm. The technique used in the study of soil algae and protozoa is described by B. M. Bristol-Roach and D. W. Cutler respectively.

With a subject growing so rapidly as soil microbiology, any book is to a certain extent out-of-date before it is published, and though doubtless certain sections of the present part of "Abderhalden" would be slightly altered if rewritten, yet it can be safely recommended as the most up-to-date work on the subject.

*Grundriss der Kriminologie: Werden und Wesen der Persönlichkeit des Täters nach Untersuchungen an Straftätern.* Von Prof. Dr. Adolf Lenz. Pp. vii + 252. (Wien: Julius Springer, 1927.) 1.5 gold marks.

DR. LENZ, as director of the University Criminological Institute of Graz, is well fitted to describe to us the influence of the personality on criminals, and in this book he does this in an extremely able manner. His case material consists of criminals from the prison at Graz and the Petty Assize prisons in Vienna and Graz. He regards crime as the resultant of the interaction of personality and its environment. In the personality he includes the physical structure as well as the psychical, and in this is following much the same lines as Kretschmer does in his well-known "Körperbau und Charakter."

The author divides his book into four parts. The first part deals with his method of investigation and

the nature and problems of criminal biology. The second part is concerned with the nature and development of personality, the importance of symbolism and the reaction of the personality to its environment. In the third part, the actual crime and its relation to the personality and its environment are considered. The fourth part deals with the sensory, intellectual, and volitional tendencies, the structure of the ego, and the relation of crime to the sex and herd instincts.

*Graphit: Charakteristik, Erzeugung, Verarbeitung und Verwendung.* Von Dr. Eugen Ryschke-witsch. (Chemische Technik der Gegenwart, Band 7.) Pp. xii + 323. (Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1926.) 4.50 gold marks.

THIS monograph is an interesting and well-printed volume, commendable for good arrangement of the subject matter. Though the author admits that his sources of reference are limited, he offers much up-to-date information, giving considerable attention to a detailed description of the chemical, physical, crystallographic, and mineralogical characteristics of graphite; this is invaluable alike to student, manufacturer, and consumer. The dressing and refining of the material are dealt with in a more cursory manner than is usual in books on this subject, but the writer nevertheless indicates the fundamental principles of preparation in a lucid manner. There are also some interesting chapters on the distribution of the raw material and its origin in Nature, on the artificial formation of graphite, on industrial applications, and on commercial statistics; in the last, the author's criticism of certain figures published by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau is noteworthy, as it indicates that he does not quote even supposedly reputable information without duly pondering on its value. The book may be considered an asset to a scientific or technological library.

*The Nature of Man.* By Dr. G. A. Dorsey. Pp. viii + 104. (London: Harper and Bros., 1927.) 3s. 6d. net.

IN this little book Dr. Dorsey has in mind the practical and immediate application of the scientific study of man. "Everything said in this book may be taken personally," he says, in his opening chapter, and his concluding words are: "Nothing is known of God's will; enough is known of Nature to point the way Man must travel if he is to survive and the goal he must desire to make the most of his nature." Dr. Dorsey's method of attacking the problem is by an exposition of man's nature and activities as an individual and as a member of family and other social groups upon a purely mechanistic basis. The mind, the soul, the group mind, the herd instinct, in short, the whole of the material of the psychologist, as well as his terminology, disappear in favour of what science 'knows'—visceral behaviour, genetic behaviour, somatic behaviour, social behaviour, and cultural behaviour. Dr. Dorsey's little book is an aid to clear thinking, even if his readers will not be prepared to go the whole way with him.