

generalised series, the number of the parameters in the numerator and denominator may be anything we please. Until comparatively recently, it was difficult to obtain anything like a complete grasp of the scattered work on these series. Cayley, in 1858, published, without proof, a theorem which he had inferred from considerations of planetary theory, and it was not until forty-one years later that a proof was discovered (by W. McF. Orr). Ramanujan rediscovered for himself many results already known but not accessible to him. The first systematic account of the subject was contained in Hardy's paper, "A Chapter from Ramanujan's Note-book" (1923). Since then numerous papers have been published, and at the suggestion of Prof. L. J. Mordell this tract, dealing largely with recent work, has been prepared by Dr. Bailey, who has himself played a leading part in the development of the subject.

At a meeting of the Mathematical Association some years ago a speaker introduced the terms 'purist' and 'fusionist'. Dr. Bailey is evidently a purist, who keeps to the straight and narrow path of his subject, and sternly resists the temptation to stray into attractive cross-roads. As the preface points out, "all parts of the subject, such as asymptotic expansions, which definitely belong to function theory, have been deliberately ignored". It is difficult for a reviewer with fusionist prejudices to approve of this policy, but in all other respects the tract may be commended.

H. T. H. P.

Miscellany

The Subject Index to Periodicals, 1934

Issued by the Library Association. Pp. xii+283. (London: The Library Association, 1935.) 70s.

THE editor, Mr. Rowland Powel, and his voluntary contributors, are to be congratulated on having succeeded in publishing this subject index to the contents of periodicals that appeared in 1934 some six weeks earlier than was the case with the corresponding volume last year.

The entries in the index are taken from 539 English and American, 26 French and Belgian, 21 German and 2 Italian periodicals. In the list of periodicals indexed, fuller bibliographical information is now given, including name and address of the publishers, frequency of publication and price (where possible). It is hoped that these details will enable those who make use of this subject index to procure a copy of any particular paper they may wish to possess.

Since last year, the selection of French and German periodicals indexed has been carefully revised, with the object of making the list more useful and comprehensive.

With few exceptions, no attempt has been made to index periodicals covered by the following publications: *Agricultural Index*, *Engineering Abstracts*, *Engineering Index*, *Index Medicus*, *Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colorists*, *Photographic Abstracts*, *Revue de Géologie*, *Royal Meteorological Society*, *Science Abstracts*, *Textile Institute Journal*.

The fact that this is the ninth year of the publication of this subject index in its present form is

evidence that the index is widely recognised as an aid in the difficult process of finding what has already been published on any particular subject. We hope, indeed, that the Library Association will make this index a permanent feature of its activities.

Fifty Years in Public Health:

a Personal Narrative with Comments. By Sir Arthur Newsholme. Pp. 415+11 plates. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1935.) 15s. net.

IN this volume, Sir Arthur Newsholme records his recollections, mainly limited to occurrences bearing on public health, from childhood down to the year 1908, when he was appointed to the Local Government Board, as it then was. This period, covering the time when he was in general practice and later medical officer of health of Brighton, was one of great development in preventive medicine, for it witnessed the growth of the science of bacteriology from the beginning, the institution of important administrative measures in public health, and profound changes in epidemiological theory.

Sir Arthur Newsholme's birthplace and home for many years was the village of Haworth, where the Brontës lived, and of whom he has some stories to tell, for some of his friends had known them, and his father had been the Rev. Patrick Brontë's churchwarden. In his student days at St. Thomas's Hospital, he came under the spell of John Syer Bristowe and Charles Murchison, notable physicians of the period, and was an onlooker on Ord's clinical researches upon myxœdema. Sir Arthur was also a spectator of the introduction of antiseptic surgery, and had the opportunity of contrasting surgical work carried out on old-fashioned lines with Listerian methods; altogether, his student days happened at a vital transition period of medical practice.

Some of the pioneers in State medicine are next considered—John Simon, Edwin Chadwick, William Farr, Benjamin Ward Richardson and others—and an outline of their work is given. Further on, we find illuminating chapters on the prevention of milk epidemics, and the control of diphtheria, typhoid fever and tuberculosis, and this interesting and inspiring volume concludes with remarks on the care of infancy and childhood, and the control of some of the diseases of the young. The book is illustrated with a number of charts, and with plates of the outstanding figures in preventive medicine of the period.

R. T. H.

This English

By Sir Richard Paget. Pp. xii+118. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 4s. 6d. net.

"GENETIC, as distinguished from a purely historical, philology," says Dr. Marett in his preface to this book, "can never hope to verify its guesses." Yet, as he goes on to add that Sir Richard Paget at the close of a lecture at Oxford was successful in identifying the meaning of fifty per cent of Chinese words in a test, it is evident that if his theory of the origin of language cannot be proved, it has some measure of experimental support, resting on a basis more