

The Ojibwa Woman

By Ruth Landes. Pp. viii + 247. (New York : Columbia University Press ; London : Oxford University Press, 1938.) 15s. net.

THE psychological study, of which Miss Landes gives the results in "The Ojibwa Woman", was undertaken with the express purpose of pursuing the inquiry in conditions other than those, that is, of Western civilization, in which similar psychological investigations have usually been carried out. Her choice of the Ojibwa of western Ontario, among whom she spent seven months collecting material, was well judged. The conditions, which here form the background, were certainly both unusual and peculiar. In the Ojibwa society, which came under Miss Landes's observation, it is only the male half of the population and its activities which fall under traditional regulation. The female half is left to a spontaneous and confused behaviour. In consequence there is a wide range of development in the personalities and careers of the women. As the author says, "Some rival the most successful men in ambitions and honours received, but do not pursue them in systematic male fashion ; others engage in both male and female pursuits ; still others are reduced to an incompetence that continues until death". This dictum is demonstrated in detail, and the resulting conduct and mentality of men and women are contrasted in youth, in marriage, in occupations and in abnormal manifestation. The force of the study is much enhanced by a free use of the actual words of the subjects under observation, and further illuminated by a number of life-histories.

Étude pratique des rayonnements

Solaire, atmosphérique et terrestre (méthodes et résultats). Par Ch. Maurain. Pp. iv + 189. (Paris : Gauthier-Villars, 1937.) 80 francs.

IN this monograph, Dr. Ch. Maurain, the director of l'Institut de Physique du Globe, covers chiefly from an observational point of view the important study of radiation, solar, atmospheric and terrestrial. Certain phenomena associated with the ionosphere indicate that the sun's ultra-violet radiation varies in sympathy with the eleven-year sunspot cycle ; yet the reality of a related periodic variation of the integrated radiation (the 'solar constant') as received at the earth's surface is extremely difficult to demonstrate in spite of years of observation linked with the name of C. G. Abbot (see NATURE of April 29, p. 705). Passing from the determination of the solar constant, there is the allied study of the incoming solar radiation as it passes earthwards through the atmosphere : the long-wave radiation from atmosphere and earth, and the distribution of these various factors in the energy balance sheet, which Dines first showed meteorologists how to prepare.

The present work usefully brings together the methods of measuring the various quantities involved, the instruments used, their principles and the practical difficulties encountered. A number of numerical examples and other tabular matter include observations made at the Observatory of Saint-Maur near Paris.

La Vie morale et l'au delà

Par Jacques Chevalier. (Bibliothèque de Philosophie scientifique.) Pp. 211. (Paris : Ernest Flammarion, 1938.) 17 francs.

THIS timely work gives an analysis of the ultimate causes of the darkened intellectual outlook of our time, and proposes the necessary remedies. The excess of liberty and the restriction of liberty which characterize our age are to be accounted for by the absence of strict moral discipline. But an ethical doctrine is not to be constituted at random to suit some particular ends : it must be founded upon a rigorous metaphysics embodying a clear vision of reality and the spiritual values attached to it. This reality does not stop short at the world of appearance ; but it goes beyond it and causes our belief in another life the nature of which is the real foundation of our moral discipline in this world.

Written in beautiful language and displaying with restraint a valuable metaphysical experience, this recent work of the learned dean of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Grenoble is well worthy of an English translation. T. G.

An Introduction to Chemistry

By Prof. John Arrend Timm. (International Chemical Series.) Third edition. Pp. xx + 568. (New York and London : McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1938.) 21s.

IT is not surprising that Prof. Timm's book has reached a third edition since its first publication in 1930, for it has many features which will recommend it to students and teachers. It is not so much a regular text-book of physical or inorganic chemistry as a general survey of many parts of chemistry which are of particular interest. It does not deal systematically with the elements, and in fact it requires much supplementing by other books ; but it takes up such topics as the atomic and molecular theories, atomic structure, valency, combustion, radioactivity, solutions and electrochemistry, colloids, and some parts of organic chemistry, and develops these subjects in a very interesting manner. There are many historical allusions.

Les Méthodes actuelles de la chimie

Par Prof. Pierre Jolibois. (Collection Armand Colin : Section de Chimie, No. 37.) Troisième édition entièrement refondue. Pp. 224. (Paris : Armand Colin, 1938.) 15 francs.

THIS unpretentious little book gives a very accurate and readable survey of the fundamentals of physical chemistry and their applications which all students could digest with profit. The mathematical equations are not deduced ; but they are clearly stated and their applications are illustrated by well-chosen examples. Recent advances, such as Raman spectra, strong electrolytes and the structure of crystals, are included, and the sections on the phase rule are particularly good. Students who wish to improve their knowledge of scientific French and at the same time to clarify their ideas on many branches of physical chemistry will find this an excellent book for their needs.