

Plain Words

A Guide to Sex Education. By W. J. Thomas. Pp. 84+10 plates. (Sydney: F. H. Johnston Publishing Co., 1942.) 2s. 6d.

THIS little book is unfortunately mistitled. Unfortunately, because although it scarcely begins to consider the many difficult and thorny problems of sex education, it does give an excellent outline of the physiological facts of sex and some of their sociological implications. Particularly good for such a modest publication are the ten plates, although they are open to criticism on points of detail.

In the first chapter, on "Sex and Wartime Morality", several important questions are begged. It seems to be assumed, for example, that sexual intercourse in marriage implies love and affection, while outside marriage it is "without love" and therefore "an abomination". This attitude neglects the very vital distinction between extra-marital intercourse which is simply promiscuous, and that which is (as is often the case) based on devotion deep and lasting. Similarly the excellent case against the new eroticism of Nazi Germany is weakened by the citing of such 'evidence' as that "Every popular magazine contains at least two or three nude photographs".

Other criticisms of a like nature may be made, and in particular, the author's discursive and repetitive style is rather irritating. But none of this should be taken to condemn the book. It is excellent in its way, and should be as useful in Great Britain as it no doubt will be in Australia.

CYRIL BIBBY.

German for the Scientist (Chemist and Physicist)

By Peter F. Wiener. Pp. xvi+208. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1943.) 6s. net.

THIS book is intended to enable the science student to acquire a reading knowledge of scientific German in a short time. The essentials of grammar and a basic vocabulary are built around a Hans Andersen story. The bulk of the volume consists of passages for translation, and the author has evidently been at some pains to select material which has scientific interest as well as a bearing on the development of his theme. A person with a little previous knowledge of German will find the reading of this book an excellent means of brushing up grammar and rapidly acquiring the ability to make sense of scientific literature. A complete beginner might find himself in some difficulty without a little outside assistance.

The reader is not pampered by vocabularies in the midst of the German text. The passages are from works on chemistry and physics, but this need not dissuade the student of other subjects, for the material is general and the vocabulary widely applicable. Literal translations of the German passages are appended, and there is a full vocabulary.

Papers of a Pioneer

Sir Pendrill Varrier-Jones. Collected by Peter Fraser. Pp. 107. (London, New York and Melbourne: Hutchinson and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1943.) 6s. net.

VARRIER-JONES contributed to various medical journals, reviews and periodicals, a number of lectures, addresses and papers treating of many aspects of tuberculosis. The substance of these has

been gathered by Mr. Peter Fraser into a connected narrative.

In the first chapter Varrier-Jones points out that the consumptive's life is a damaged one and that breakdowns and relapses will often occur if he is merely given a course of sanatorium treatment. Frequently, too, the patient remains a source of infection to the community. In the three succeeding chapters the author notes how economic considerations prevent the diagnosis of the early case, that for no class of the disabled is a life "sheltered and yet active, protected and yet self-respecting", so necessary as for the tuberculous, and that the problem is not purely medical. Psychology and sociology are mingled with medical considerations. The remaining chapters of the book describe how the author solved the problem by providing medical supervision, treatment and care in the village settlement at Papworth.

The editor has done his task well. The book will appeal to all workers engaged in combating the ravages of tuberculosis. As Lord Horder remarks in his foreword, there could not be a more sincere memorial to Varrier-Jones and his work.

Changes in the Knee Joint at Various Ages

With Particular Reference to the Nature and Development of Degenerative Joint Disease. By Prof. Granville A. Bennett, Dr. Hans Waide and Prof. Walter Bauer. Pp. ix+97+31 plates. (New York: The Commonwealth Fund; London: Oxford University Press, 1942.) 14s. net.

THIS volume summarizes the results of an investigation into the morphological and histological appearances in the so-called normal knee joint at each decade of life. The anatomical changes are described and illustrated in a very fine selection of photographs. Beyond the second decade, all the joints examined showed changes similar to those found in hypertrophic (osteo-) arthritis. The signs of disease were progressively greater with increase in age. Pathogenesis and etiology of degenerative arthritis are fully considered. The authors conclude that the joint changes they describe are essentially due to a degenerative process of hyaline cartilage, and suggest investigation of the factors governing maturation, maintenance and ageing of the hyaline cartilage.

Apart from the scientific value of the accurate observations and the full review of the literature, this book can be recommended to the clinician as a useful reference on prognosis and treatment in arthritis.

Principles and Practice of Chromatography

By Prof. L. Zechmeister and Dr. L. Cholnoky. Translated from the second and enlarged German edition by A. L. Bacharach and F. A. Robinson. Second impression (corrected and with Supplementary Bibliography). Pp. xv+378. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1943.) 25s. net.

THE early need for a second impression of this useful translation has raised the difficult problem of keeping the work up to date under wartime conditions. Apart from minor corrections the main text is unaltered, but there is a classified supplementary bibliography containing some three hundred references to work published between 1938 and 1941. This makes the work as complete as can be expected at the present time.