Psychology and the Industrial Worker

By E. G. Chambers. Pp. x+190. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1951.) 10*s*. 6*d*. net.

OF the 119 references listed at the end of this book, fewer than a third concern work reported during the past decade. The investigators who receive the largest numbers of 'mentions' in the index of names are S. Wyatt, H. M. Vernon, E. Farmer, J. N. Langdon, T. Bedford, M. Culpin, May Smith, H. C. Weston, B. Muscio and the author himself. From these two facts alone, it is possible to draw the correct conclusion that the book is mainly about the pre-war work of the Industrial Health Research Board. As most of the original reports of the Board are nowadays difficult to obtain, and seem unlikely to be reprinted, Mr. Chambers has met a real need, and on this he is to be congratulated. It is particularly gratifying to have available a convenient summary of some of the early work of Dr. Wyatt, whose services to industrial psychology are insufficiently appreciated.

But as "an attempt to examine the principles underlying the work of the psychologist in the industrial field", the book is more than disappointing. Its scope is far too narrow, and its neglect of recent work far too great, for it to provide a satisfactory basis for any such examination. Indeed, it is difficult even to discern the principles the author claims to be scrutinizing. Moreover, when he moves away from the particular parts of the field of which he has first-hand knowledge, Mr. Chambers is apt to become embarrassingly naïve (as in his chapters on guidance, selection and training) or even inaccurate (as on p. 149, where he says, "tests . . . are the sole material of the factor analyst"). The value of the book is further diminished by the fact that it has been used for the expression of some of the author's political opinions. This is all a great pity, because mixed up with the chaff there is wheat, even in the least satisfactory chapters. A. RODGER

Organic Reactions

Vol. 6. Roger Adams (editor-in-chief). Pp. viii+517. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1951.) 64*s*. net.

THIS book is similar in style, arrangement and calibre to the previous volumes of this well-known and highly respected series. The ten chapter-headings (with authors' names in brackets) indicate the fields which are covered: Stobbe condensation (Johnson and Daub), preparation of 3 : 4-dihydro-*iso*quinolines and related compounds by the Bischler–Napieralsky reaction (Whaley and Govindachari), Pictet–Spengler synthesis of tetrahydro*iso*quinolines and related compounds (Whaley and Govindachari), synthesis of *iso*quinolines by the Pomeranz–Fritsch reaction (Gensler), Oppenauer oxidation (Djerassi), synthesis of phosphoric and phosphinic acids (Kosolapoff), halogen–metal interconversion reaction with organo-lithium compounds (Jones and Gilman), preparation of thiazoles (Wiley, England and Bahr), preparation of thiophenes and tetrahydrothiophenes (Wolf and Folkers), and reductions by lithium aluminium hydride (Brown).

Each chapter contains a wealth of practical detail, and the tabular surveys of applications are carefully compiled and complete. There is, however, a regrettable difference in the date to which the literature has been studied. This varies from the end of 1946, which really appears to be inexcusably remote, to January 1950. Some of the chapter headings suggest that it is time to abandon the use of authors' names as a trivial title for a reaction.

The increase in price of the volumes from 4 dollars (24*s*.) to 8 dollars (64*s*.) on ascending the series is noted with resignation. J. HONEYMAN

Oxidation-Reduction Potentials in Bacteriology and Biochemistry

By Dr. L. F. Hewitt. Sixth edition. Pp. viii+215. (Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd., 1950.) 20*s*. net.

THIS new edition of a well-known book, formerly issued by the London County Council but now under the imprint of a regular publisher, follows similar lines to the previous ones, and has been considerably enlarged. Its usefulness to a large circle of biologists is shown by its continued sale during the past twenty years, and no doubt it will continue to appeal to biochemists and bacteriologists who find it convenient to have in one book the varied facts concerning oxidation and reduction in biological systems. It is possible that, now oxidation–reduction phenomena in biological systems have been more intensively studied and better understood, many will prefer to find their information in the more general text-books where oxidation–reduction reactions are treated as one example of many kinds. Nevertheless, this book remains a useful source of information on this aspect. In this edition the author has gone rather outside the field of oxidation–reduction, for example, in his discussions of enzyme inhibition, antibiotics and bacterial adaptation. Though no doubt there is scarcely any biological phenomenon which is not in some way connected with oxidation or reduction processes, it might have been better to limit the discussions to cases in which the connexion is not indirect. There is an extensive bibliography, mainly to work earlier than 1942.

Powder Metallurgy

(Selected Government Research Reports, Vol. 9: Issued by the Ministry of Supply: Published for the Technical Information and Documents Unit of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.) Pp. iv+159+31 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1951.) 18*s*. net.

THIS volume consists of ten reports of powder metallurgical investigations carried out in British government laboratories and research stations, and was published in September last. The titles of the reports indicate their subjects and are as follows: No. 1, the surface energies of metals and alloys; No. 2, the examination of sintered metal components; No. 3, some properties of engineering iron powders; No. 4, production of iron powder by electrodeposition; No. 5, German sintered iron bearings; No. 6, trials of sintered iron driving-bands for 20-mm. Oerlikon ammunition; No. 7, sintered iron–copper compacts; No. 8, an aluminium alloy made by powder metallurgy; No. 9, notes on German developments in non-carbide powder metallurgy (1939–45); No. 10, the tensile strength of titanium at various temperatures.

Five of the reports, Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, were published in 1947 in Special Report No. 38 of the Iron and Steel Institute. Of the others, three are of great interest and value, namely, Nos. 1, 2 and 10. It is useful to have the papers neatly bound in a single volume, but somewhat unfortunate that publication has been delayed so long.