

minutes in which to answer." On such occasions Baeyer was apt to formulate questions designed (in his opinion) to make the candidate think, rather than to reproduce book knowledge. One can imagine the *Examensangst* (expressive word!) of an aspiring pharmacist when asked suddenly: "What happens when a red cyclist collides in the street with a Munich tramcar? You have three minutes in which to answer". When the second-hand of the examiner's watch reached the prescribed mark without the astonished candidate having referred to the effect of bringing together the primary red and blue colours, Baeyer would admonish him: "Sie müssen denken lernen!" Naturally, there was another side to all this, and at intervals unofficial collections of Baeyer's questions were issued in the form of a 'swot book', or, to give it a more dignified name, an *Examensfragenheftchen*; and Baeyer found it increasingly difficult to hit upon new questions.

Altogether, this is an informative and entertaining book, deserving of a wide welcome from chemists and others.

JOHN READ

PSYCHIC REMINISCENCES

Telepathy and Spiritualism

Personal Experiments, Experiences and Views. By Dr. J. Hettinger. Pp. 150. (London: Rider and Co., 1952.) 16s. net.

Psychic Oddities

Fantastic and Bizarre Events in the Life of a Psychological Researcher. By Hereward Carrington. Pp. 183. (London: Rider and Co., 1952.) 16s. net.

IN these two books by, respectively, Dr. J. Hettinger and Mr. H. Carrington, the authors summarize some of their experiments and conclusions in psychical research.

The first is an account of Dr. Hettinger's personal attempts to arrive at the truth regarding telepathy and spiritualism. In the course of his discussion he provides abstracts of some of his previously published works, including his two books, "The Ultra-Perceptive Faculty" and "Exploring the Ultra-Perceptive Faculty", which deal with his investigation of the alleged faculty of certain persons whereby paranormal knowledge is gained about a person or thing through the use of some object acting as a key or pointer. From the simpler type of experiment, Dr. Hettinger proceeded to an interesting and ingenious "pictorial method" in which he attempted to show that the transmission of the content of illustrated matter could be conveyed to a percipient with results so far in advance of what might be expected by chance or other normal factor that a paranormal explanation had to be invoked.

Before dealing with his own experiments, Dr. Hettinger briefly discusses those of some of his contemporaries, including Dr. S. G. Soal, Mrs. M. Goldney, Mr. Whately Carrington and Dr. J. B. Rhine. With regard to many of these experiments, he is of the opinion that they do not, as is often claimed, test the existence of any psychic faculty through statistical evaluation or ascertain the functioning of such a faculty as regards past, present and future.

Although Dr. Hettinger is convinced of the validity of his own findings and their value as pointing the way to various further possibilities, he does not

appear to have dealt seriously with the published criticisms of his experiments in relation to the chance factor, bias in the assessment of the results, and inadequacy of the control material. Although, at first sight, it would appear that many of his results are clearly due to the operation of some unknown factor, this feeling is much weakened by a careful scrutiny of the conditions and by the omission in the printed accounts of details clearly necessary to any fair appraisal of the facts. Although the book has both an index and a bibliography, only two items in the latter are dated, and only two give the place of publication, omissions which, in a work of this kind, are difficult to excuse.

In his "Psychic Oddities", Mr. Hereward Carrington, the veteran American psychical researcher, has put together a number of his personal reminiscences coupled with a selected number of odd experiences recorded by others. Unlike Dr. Hettinger, he has made but a few lengthy series of experiments himself, and in this volume he is content to give the reader a lively sketch of mediums, research workers and magicians he has known, interspersed with many amusing anecdotes. Unfortunately, Mr. Carrington has failed to provide adequate documentation for the stories he tells, and thus the reader is debarred from following up the material, tracing it to its source and then judging whether there is any case to answer.

E. J. DINGWALL

DUNS, SPINNERS AND SEDGES

An Angler's Entomology

By J. R. Harris. (New Naturalist Series.) Pp. xv+268+48 plates. (London and Glasgow: Wm. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1952.) 25s. net.

TO the entomologist the fly-fisher's nomenclature is baffling. His almost mystic faith in some particular artificial fly, on a particular stretch of water, on a particular evening is impressive, especially when he is successful; and yet, somehow, it savours far more of chance than of sound intention.

Mr. J. R. Harris takes us right into the heart of these arcana, not as an iconoclast debunking the whole mystery but as an angler and entomologist who, more successfully than his predecessors, has tried to make sense of it. His is the right approach for the fisherman, because it starts from what he knows and has experienced—from his 'known' to his 'unknown'. This book is not a treatise on aquatic entomology: it is what it purports to be, an angler's entomology dealing with the questions the intelligent angler asks and the information he seeks. Without obtruding systematic entomology, it brings the work of Kimmins and Hynes—to mention only two systematists—to the assistance of the fisherman in unravelling the almost bewildering assortment of names given by his forbears to the flies he uses and the insects he sees.

It deals first with the Ephemeroptera or mayflies (duns and spinners), describing without too much detail their life-histories and habits, their enemies and their place in classification. Then follows a similar but shorter account of the Trichoptera or caddis-flies (sedges), the Perlidæ or stone-flies and a few Diptera like *Bibio* and the Chironomids. All this is straightforward, sound entomology. Next in the final third of the book come chapters on "Period Flies and Fish", on the taste and sight of fish, on