

corresponds exactly with Galton's assertion that the two parents between them contribute one-half of the total heritage of the offspring." There is surely a screw loose here. Dr. Saleeby's vivacious style will fascinate some readers and help them over difficult themes, but we wish that he had been sometimes less conversational, as when he speaks of the Bathmic theory of organic evolution as "an amusing piece of nonsense."

J. A. T.

*The Practical Photographer.* Library Series. Nos. 24, 25, and 26. 24 and 25, Pictorial Printing, parts i. and ii. Pp. xx+64 and xx+64. 26, Artificial Light and Night Photography. Pp. xx+64. Edited by Rev. F. C. Lambert. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1905.) Price 1s. net.

We have before us three more additions to this very practical and useful series of photographic handbooks, with which most of our photographic readers are now well acquainted. The first two are devoted to pictorial printing, in which are brought together many methods by which the negatives may be altered, the print controlled during printing, or generally or locally modified according to desire.

For the most part No. 24 treats chiefly of the employment of one negative only, while No. 25 is devoted chiefly to combination printing and enlarging, cloud negatives, and cloud printing. Both numbers are preceded by interesting and well illustrated *résumés* of the pictorial work of Bessie Stanford and Percy Lewis, which to the beginner should serve as admirable types of high order work.

The third number belongs to quite another branch of photography, namely, that in which the incident light on the object is for the most part artificial, such as flashlight, candle light, gas light, acetylene, &c. Here we have a collection of notes by numerous workers, all of whom have secured some interesting pictures by one or other of these methods. As before, the reader is not left to gather his ideas from the text alone, but is introduced to some interesting pictures with notes describing under what conditions they were taken. This number also contains an account by the editor of the pictorial work of J. C. Warburg, with a reproduction of many of his most typical photographs.

These three numbers thus form a welcome addition to those previously published, and will certainly be appreciated by those workers to whom they specially appeal.

*Introduction to the Study of Organic Chemistry.* By John Wade, D.Sc. (Lond.). New and enlarged edition. Pp. xx+646. (London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co., Ltd., 1905.) Price 8s. 6d. net.

THE fact that the present volume has reached its second edition points to the public appreciation of Dr. Wade's book. This is not surprising.

The arrangement of the subjects bears evidence of the author's thought, and the immense number of facts compiled speaks eloquently of his industry.

There are several novel features to which the author directs attention in the preface, and which possess certain merits. There is no doubt that charts or surveys, which serve to show, in a condensed form, the relation of a variety of compounds, are an aid to the memory, and the author has introduced them freely.

The principle of making a thorough study of a single common substance like ethyl alcohol and then dealing with its more important derivatives before thrusting the student into the tangle of homologous series has very much to recommend it.

Perhaps the title of the book is a little misleading. One would be inclined to suppose that a student who

was familiar with these 624 pages of closely printed matter might be regarded as a well informed organic chemist; but he has only an introductory knowledge. We must express our respect for those who have passed beyond this "introduction," whilst others who may be examined in the information required by Dr. Wade's introductory standard demand our sympathy. The illustrations exhibit rather too plainly the defects of photography applied to glass apparatus, though they possess a realistic character which may appeal to the student. We are glad to notice the author's respect for the traditional spelling of the word *radical*.

J. B. C.

*The Romance of Insect Life. Interesting Descriptions of the Strange and Curious in the Insect World.* By Edmund Selous. With twenty-one illustrations by Lancelot Speed and Carton Moore Park. Pp. 352. (London: Seeley and Co., Ltd., 1906.)

THE letterpress consists of a series of extracts, derived from a variety of sources, relating to ants, termites, locusts, butterflies, water-insects, fireflies, scorpions, &c., connected together by general observations on all kinds of subjects. Occasionally the compiler's remarks on the senses of insects or on mimicry are worthy of notice, but they are frequently in bad taste and often inaccurate, which is not surprising, as we are constantly told that he is only quoting his data second-hand, and has not seen the original records.

This is a pretty book, but otherwise we regret that we have little to say in its praise. The author suggests that the genus of grasshoppers called "Scudder" were so named because they "scud," though Scudder's name is actually referred to on the opposite page. As an illustration of style and inaccuracy we may quote the following:—"From 1778 to 1780 a dreadful curse of locusts, alluded to by Southey in his 'Curse of Kehama,'—or perhaps forming the subject of that poem—I really don't know—fell upon the Empire of Morocco." There are *two lines* relating to locusts in the "Kehama," and it is "Thalaba" in which they are noticed at greater length.

There are really only sixteen page illustrations, some of them being double—i.e. divided in the middle, and thus making up the twenty-one of the title-page.

Most of our scientific men must be very far behind other people, for Mr. Selous tells us, "Everybody knows nowadays how all the different species of animals and plants, living and extinct, have come into existence," &c., &c.

Errors in Latin names abound, the worst being Orthoptera for Ornithoptera wherever it occurs. It is a pity that a book intended to popularise natural history should not have been more carefully written and edited. It almost looks as if the compiler thought anything would be good enough for his prospective readers.

*The Art and Practice of Laundry Work for Students and Teachers.* By Margaret Cuthbert Rankin. Pp. 191. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd., 1905.) Price 2s. 6d.

THERE is little that is scientific in this book; it gives the impression, indeed, that even the teachers of laundry work are guided by empirical rules. It should be possible to inculcate the broad scientific principles upon which the art and practice are based while teaching girls how to do their laundry-work successfully. The washing of clothes, and the other processes through which they pass in the laundry, would then not be matters of rule of thumb, but intelligent applications of scientific principles to particular purposes.