

suggestions which are incompatible with the moral sense of the subject are in most cases at once rejected. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that if it is possible by means of hypnosis to suggest crime to a person whose moral sense is defective, then this is a factor which might become of vast importance if hypnotic suggestion ever became a remedy of general use.

The author gives an interesting chapter on "suggestive therapeutics," and in it he shows the power of suggestion of one mind upon another, and even in the same person the influence of the conscious mind upon the subconscious. He believes that Christian science is largely a system of auto-suggestion.

Dr. Ash strongly urges that there should be introduced into the medical curriculum a compulsory course of psychology and lectures on the principles of "suggestive therapeutics." We cordially agree with the former recommendation, for it is lamentable to find the ignorance that still exists regarding the normal mind, and some knowledge of this subject is a matter of growing importance, both from the evolutionary and dissolutionary standpoints.

For those who wish to learn some of the practical points regarding hypnosis and suggestion, Dr. Ash's book will be found most helpful, for although it is small it contains much information.

Domaine de Tervueren—Arboretum—Types de Forêts des Régions tempérées représentés dans leur Composition caractéristique. By Ch. Bommer. Pp. 211. (Brussels: Imprimerie F. and L. Terneu, 1905.)

THE site of the above arboretum was generously given by the King of the Belgians to the people. At the time of the gift His Majesty expressed the opinion that it was very useful, not to say indispensable, to create or to preserve open spaces with natural decoration near large towns, both from an æsthetic and hygienic point of view. M. Ch. Bommer was entrusted with the task of laying out the arboretum, and this he has evidently done in a scientific and practical manner. The various plots or groups have been formed to illustrate the principal types of vegetation in the temperate zone of the old and new worlds. Even the bushes and herbaceous plants characteristic of these zones have been added to complete the picture, thus very clearly illustrating the characteristics of the various species and their geographical distribution. The arboretum also forms an excellent centre for testing the acclimatisation of exotic trees. We have also in the above book a detailed account of the individual species which includes synonyms, size, habit, general characteristics, and uses of wood, &c. Numerous photographic plates are included illustrating various groups and points of general interest. Plans of the arboretum and maps showing the geographical distribution of the species are given at the end of this very useful and interesting book.

Elementary Science for Pupil Teachers. Physics Section by W. T. Clough. Chemistry Section by A. E. Dunstan. Pp. vi+183. (London: Methuen and Co., 1907.) Price 2s.

PUPIL teachers should have opportunities of doing practical work will, if they perform the experiments in this book and follow the guidance it gives, obtain sound preliminary ideas of physics and chemistry. The physics section comprises the measurement of lengths, areas, volumes, and masses, simple hydrostatics, and an introduction to the study of heat.

The chemistry section covers the subjects arising from a careful study of air, water, and other common substances. The volume is on the whole attractive, but the smaller of the two types is likely to try the eyes of readers.

A First Geometry. By W. M. Baker and A. A. Bourne. Pp. viii+128+vi. (London: George Bell and Sons, 1907.) Price 1s. 6d.

WITH the exception of a dozen theorems at the end, this book is a simple course of experimental geometry designed to familiarise young pupils with fundamental geometrical conceptions by setting them to draw with mathematical instruments and to construct simple models for measuring angles and constructing plans. The lessons are interesting, and arranged in a manner that shows the authors to be well acquainted with the needs and capabilities of beginners.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Radium and Geology.

PROF. JOLY'S interesting discovery (NATURE, May 2, p. 8) that typical rocks in the Simplon Tunnel contain quantities of radium considerably in excess of the average of igneous rocks raises a question. From Mr. Strutt's investigations it appears that the average content of igneous rocks would be sufficient to account for the ordinary temperature gradient in the earth's crust were it due to radium. It seems, therefore, that, if the temperature was so caused, the gradient in the Simplon Tunnel ought to have been higher than the average, viz. 1° F. for between 50 feet and 60 feet. But, in fact, as beneath other mountains, it was considerably lower. In NATURE, October 27, 1904, it is stated that the temperature of the rocks in the advanced gallery was 108° F. where the cover was 7005 feet. This gives 1° F. for 92 feet. In the St. Gothard Tunnel it was 1° F. for 102 feet, and in the Mt. Cenis Tunnel 1° F. for 100 feet. That the gradient in the Simplon Tunnel, though low, was somewhat higher than in the other two was probably caused by the spring 23° hotter than the rock, which brought up heat from a lower level. I think I have shown in my "Physics of the Earth's Crust," chapter xvi., that these low gradients can but very slightly be attributed to the convexity of the surface.

Is not, therefore, the result of Prof. Joly's examination of the Simplon rocks rather unfavourable than otherwise to the hypothesis that the heat of the earth's crust is due to radium? O. FISHER.

Graveley, Huntingdon, May 4.

Ethnological Notes on the Aboriginal Tribes of New South Wales and Victoria.

A REVIEW of the above work appeared in NATURE of May 31, 1906 (vol. lxxiv., p. 100), to which I wish to reply briefly. The review opens by saying that my works "have either been ignored or dismissed in a footnote by experts such as Dr. Howitt and Prof. Spencer." Whilst the reviewer was quite aware of the obscure "footnote," he was quite silent regarding my reply to it, dated June 27, 1905.¹ The opinions of the two men named do not perturb me, but when such an injurious statement appears in the "thunderer" of scientific journalism, I crave fair play and the right of reply.

¹ The Queensland Geographical Journal, vol. xx., pp. 73-75.