

rather disquieting to read in a specimen sentence:—
 “Omna entusiasmo posedas per su la tendenco, ne klarigar, sed trublar l'okulo di l'intelekto.”

Einführung in die Lehre vom Bau und den Verrichtungen des Nervensystems. By Prof. Ludwig Edinger. Pp. iii+190. (Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1909.) Price 6 marks.

THIS is an excellent work consisting of fifteen lectures on the various parts of the central nervous system. Dr. Edinger has a very pleasant way of introducing information concerning the functions of the nervous structures as he describes them, a feature which makes his works much more readable than those which give merely geographical descriptions of the parts under consideration. Another feature of the present work is that it keeps the reader constantly informed respecting the comparative anatomy and evolutionary antiquity of the particular structure he is studying.

The book consists of 190 pages, but there are probably less than 100 pages of letterpress owing to the generous way in which it is illustrated. There are no fewer than 161 diagrams, in addition to a plate showing the development of the Neencephalon over the Palæencephalon. The diagrams are so clear and helpful to the student that a mere smattering of knowledge of the German language is probably all that is necessary for the book to be a useful addition to his library.

The first chapter, on methods of investigation of the nervous system, is largely historical; the second is devoted to the study of the histological elements; while the third is a charming combination and correlation of the histology, physiology, embryology and comparative anatomy of the nervous system as a whole. The author then presents a general survey of the brain and spinal cord, and subsequently discusses the various tracts of the spinal cord and traces them from their origin to their termination. Then follow chapters on the pons, cerebellum, mesencephalon, basal ganglia and connections of the optic nerve. The last four chapters are devoted to the various portions of the cerebrum, the corpus striatum, connections of the olfactory nerve, the internal capsule, &c.

On p. 61 there are two diagrams of the root distribution of cutaneous sensation (front and back views) which, so far as our memory serves us, are not in accordance with the findings of Head, Starr or Thorburn, and we are inclined to think that Edinger's diagrams are incorrect.

The addition of an index to the book would greatly enhance its value.

Annuaire astronomique de l'Observatoire royal de Belgique, 1909. Published under the direction of G. Lecointe. Pp. vii+347+258. (Brussels: Hayez.)

OF the numerous publications of the Brussels Observatory, none is, perhaps, more generally useful than this “Annuaire,” and we know of no other annual which excels it in general usefulness. All the usual tables, ephemerides, &c., relating to the sun, moon, planets, comets, and stars are contained in the first part, which is followed by explanations as to how to use the tables, and a long list of the names and positions of the principal observatories of the world. A very useful and explicit statement of the legal time used in various countries is clearly illustrated by a folding map, coloured to show the countries which have so far adopted “universal” time and those which have not; the date line is shown in detail too.

Other parts of the “Annuaire” deal with surveying problems—there are some useful formulæ and forms for amateur surveyors—the form of the earth and the more recent work in astronomy.

W. E. R.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Mining Administration in India.

IN view of the recent attacks made in the London *Mining Journal* on Mining Administration in India, and also, both directly and indirectly, on the director of the Geological Survey, we have deemed it advisable to send you the following extracts, one of which is taken from the *Mining Journal* of June 26, p. 801, and the other from the published evidence given by Sir Thomas Holland before the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation, and published in Blue-book Cd. 4369 (vol. x. of Minutes of Evidence, p. 47):—

From the *Mining Journal* of June 26, p. 801, leading article, headed “Mining Administration in British India.”

“We cannot close our observations on the evidence tendered to the Commission without noting the light thrown by the report on the sincerity of Sir Thomas Holland's attempt to suggest that we had imputed corruption to Government officials in India. As an argument against the establishment of a separate Provincial Survey, the director of the Geological Survey said:—

“If I transferred an officer, say, to Burma, or any province beyond my control, and he was the officer who governed the granting of mining concessions, I have not the slightest doubt that within a year, if he had only ordinary intelligence, he would discover that his salary *would*¹ be only a fraction of his income.” We do not remember even to have seen the chief of what is professedly a scientific body so frankly confess his distrust of his colleagues' honesty and professional pride.”

By changing one word in quoting the Blue-book, the *Mining Journal* has altered the whole meaning of the remarks made by the director. In view of the comments made, it is for the *Mining Journal* to prove that this misquotation is accidental. Having regard to the claim of the *Mining Journal* that it “circulates all over the world,” the writer of the article must know that it will be read by many to whom the Blue-books are not accessible, for no assistance has been given by a reference to the particular volume in which the director's evidence is recorded. As the inaccurate quotation has already received a start of some weeks before reaching us in India, we shall be glad if, by publishing this letter, you will assist in preventing any further dissemination of a grossly unjust insinuation.

With this sample before them, we can safely leave your readers to estimate the value of the attacks on the Indian administration recently made in the *Mining Journal*.

Needless to add, the relation between us and Sir Thomas Holland is one of perfect and mutual confidence.

We have been unable to communicate with three of our

¹ The italics are ours.

Evidence of Sir Thomas Holland, director, Geological Survey of India, published in Blue-book Cd. 4369, being vol. x. of the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Royal Commission upon Decentralisation in India, p. 47:—

Question No. 43455: “Is not an officer who has to deal with mining concessions in any part of the world subject to great temptation?”

“Yes; if I transferred an officer, say to Burma, or to any province beyond my control, and he was the officer who governed the granting of mining concessions, I have not the slightest doubt that within a year, if he had ordinary intelligence, he would discover that his salary *need*¹ be only a fraction of his income.”