

the inclusion of some experiments within the range of possibility for the student. Forbes' method is entirely unsuitable for performance in a school laboratory.

*Die praktischen Schularbeiten in der Physik.* By Dr. W. Leick. Zweite Auflage. Pp. 49. (Leipzig: Quelle and Meyer, 1910.) Price 0.80 mark.

THIS pamphlet consists of two parts, of which the first and longer is a plea for the further introduction into German schools of laboratory work in practical physics, while the second gives a few selected examples of the kinds of work which the author regards as specially suited for schools. It appears that comparatively few of the German *Gymnasien* and *Realschulen* have as yet introduced practical physics into the school curriculum, although there is at the present time a vigorous movement in favour of its compulsory adoption in all higher schools. The author sets forth very clearly the advantages of individual practical work, and discusses at some length the objections that have been raised against laboratory work in schools.

It is interesting and refreshing to find a German author holding up English educational methods as a model for his countrymen. He is, however, severe on that method of teaching which induces the student, or professes to induce the student, on the strength of a few experiments (probably badly performed) to regard himself as the discoverer of natural laws. The examples in the second part of the pamphlet illustrate other and better methods of arousing the interest of the pupil, and show that Dr. Leick is a teacher who by his own originality will induce originality in his pupils. There is a fairly full bibliography.

H. E. S.

- (1) *Who's Who*, 1911. Pp. xxvi+2246. (London: A. and C. Black.) Price 10s. net.
- (2) *The Writers' and Artists' Year Book*. Pp. viii+132. (London: A. and C. Black.) Price 1s. net.
- (3) *The Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory*, 1911. Edited by G. E. Mitton. Pp. xxxiv+386. (London: A. and C. Black.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

THE new edition of "Who's Who" (1) shows another annual increase in size, containing eighty-four pages more than the last issue. Due prominence is given to the biographies of men of science, about whom the volume provides many interesting personal facts, as well as details of their professional careers. This work of reference is more than ever indispensable.

The "Writers' and Artists' Year Book" (2) is a very useful directory for writers, artists, and photographers. It gives just the information which these workers require. The new tables in the book include clubs for authors and artists, and there is an article this year on the law of copyright.

We agree with the editor of "The Englishwoman's Year Book" (3) that no woman who takes any part in public or social life can afford to be without this volume. The book is now for the first time divided into two parts: one including education, professions, and social life, and the other being mainly devoted to philanthropic effort. An especially valuable feature is the section giving particulars of scholarships offered to women by the different universities.

*Notes on Physiology.* By Dr. Henry Ashby. Eighth edition. Revised by Hugh T. Ashby. Pp. xxix+346. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1910.) Price 5s.

ALTHOUGH this little book has seen eight editions, and so has successfully catered for a certain class of students, that fact alone must not be taken as evidence that the book is a good one. There is little or no

attempt made to keep pace with the advance of modern physiology. Old and incorrect statements are still retained, new work and new ideas are almost altogether omitted. The book may perchance still enable the lazy student to scrape through his examination on the minimum of pass marks, but it is only right to warn intending purchasers that to rely on Ashby's notes alone will be like leaning on a broken reed. A catalogue of the various faults, both of commission and omission, which adorn nearly every page, might be given, but it would be hardly fair to the readers of NATURE to use its columns in this way. These might more suitably appear in periodicals which are more widely read by the medical students for whom this book is intended.

W. D. H.

*The Stars from Year to Year, with Charts for Every Month.* By H. Periam Hawkins. Pp. 23. Price 1s. net.

*The Star Calendar for 1911.* By H. P. H. Price 1s. net.

*The Star Almanac for 1911.* By H. Periam Hawkins. (Bedford and London: Bods. Times Publishing Co., Ltd.; and London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6d. net.

ONCE more we welcome the three annuals prepared by Mrs. H. Periam Hawkins as being among the most useful, low-priced aids to amateur astronomers. "The Stars from Year to Year" is practically the same as last year, and in some respects this is to be regretted. For example, turning to "Halley's Comet," we find the latest information is the statement that "according to the latest computations of Messrs. Cowell and Crommelin it will be nearest the sun on April 30, 1910." It seems a pity that in a book, apparently issued for 1911, some short *résumé* of the facts we learned from the re-appearance of so famous an object is not given.

In the "Star Calendar" the date calendar and the four quotations have been changed, and we would suggest that in future issues the fastening at the centre of the planisphere should be strengthened. The addition of the equator and ecliptic, especially the latter, might also prove useful.

No handier almanac than the broadsheet prepared by Mrs. Hawkins can be hung in the sanctum or observatory of the amateur. Eclipses, meteor showers, the positions of the planets, &c., are tabulated, and reproductions of the lunar eclipse of April 30, 1905, and Ritchey's Orion nebula are also given.

W. E. R.

*The Medical Directory*, 1911. Pp. 2168. (London: J. and A. Churchill.) Price 14s. net.

IN addition to full information of the professional qualifications of recognised practitioners, this very complete directory contains all the facts a medical man is likely to expect in such a work of reference. Among the new features of the sixty-seventh issue may be mentioned new lists of coroners and Continental health resorts; a summary of the law as to cremations; information as to motor-car and petrol rebates; and a numerical summary showing the geographical distribution of the medical profession.

*Philips' Nature Calendar*, 1911. (London: G. Philip and Son, Ltd.) Price 6d. net.

NOTES are given on the characteristic animal and plant life of each month, and on garden operations. There are also notes on general aspects and problems of nature-study, intended to suggest subjects for lessons and observations. The calendar is intended to be hung upon a wall, and it should be of decided service in directing attention to the changing face of animate nature throughout the year.