

The book is written in the form of letters from a nurse to her patient. It is intended for the laity. The instructions are practical and the teaching is in accord with the modern school of obstetrics.

It is questionable what advantage is gained by presenting medical subjects in this way, but if women are to be supplied with information on these subjects it could not be better given.

The book is of handy size, and it is supplied with an index. The type is good.

*The Modern Geometry of the Triangle.* By W. Gallatly. Pp. 70. (London: F. Hodgson, n.d.) Price 2s. 6d.

THE principal novelties in this tract are the chapters on the orthopole (with some original propositions by the author) and on orthogonal projection (mostly after Prof. Neuberg). A pretty theorem in the latter is that all equilateral triangles in a given plane project upon another plane into triangles having the same Brocard angle. The other four chapters discuss various kinds of coordinates, the Lemoine and Brocard points, pedal and anti-pedal triangles, the medial triangle, and the Simpson line. No reference is made to the Tucker circles, or to Kiepert's hyperbola; even the Brocard circle is unmentioned, so the tract is deficient, even as a summary of the most important parts of the subject. A rather irritating feature is that the symbol  $\omega$  is used for two entirely different purposes; this might easily have been avoided. Perhaps the figures will be found as useful as anything in the tract, for although they are not particularly good, they are drawn so that the special points are far enough apart, which is not very easy to contrive when a student is drawing figures for himself. M.

*Paul Appell: Biographie, Bibliographie analytique des Ecrits.* By Ernest Lebon. Pp. viii+71. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars, 1910.) Price 7 francs.

THIS volume is the latest addition to the excellent series of biographies published under the general title, "Savants du Jour," to which attention has been directed on several occasions in these columns. The brochure maintains the high character of the series.

A biography of Prof. Appell, in which an interesting account of his early experiences during the siege of Strasburg, where he was born in 1855, is followed by an exhaustive list of the academic distinctions, honorary titles, prizes, and decorations which have been conferred upon him during his strenuous life. His work in mathematical analysis was eulogised by M. Charles Hermite in 1889, on the occasion of Prof. Appell's receiving a gold medal at a conference presided over by King Oscar II.; and the appreciation is here printed. M. Gaston Darboux's account of the researches in geometry, for which Prof. Appell received the Bordin prize of the Paris Academy of Sciences, is also included in the volume. A complete list of the papers and addresses of the subject of the biography completes what is a valuable record.

*A Flower Anthology.* Selected and illustrated by Alfred Rawlings. Pp. iv+163. (London: Philip Lee Warner, 1910.) Price 5s. net.

THE quotations in this collection have been selected from the works of many well-known poets, but more especially from Wordsworth, Shakespeare, Herrick, Chaucer, and Keats.

The poems have been classified roughly into those dealing with the seasons of the year, and the changes in the animal and vegetable world associated with them. We are glad to see Edmund Spenser's "The Pageant of the Year," which gives a fine description and picture of nature in the different seasons and months.

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The illustrations form a pleasing addition to the volume, which should meet with the approval of all lovers of poetry. The book is, moreover, very tastefully bound.

*Hazell's Annual for 1911. A Record of the Men and Movements of the Time.* Edited by Hammond Hall. Pp. lix+592. (London: Hazell, Watson and Viney, Ltd.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

THE twenty-sixth issue of this useful reference annual is so much up-to-date that it contains a biographical list of members of the new House of Commons. So varied are the contents of the volume that it will appeal to workers in most spheres of human activity. The man of science will find, among other useful contents, articles on scientific progress in 1910, aerial navigation in 1910, Imperial research, scientific institutions, higher education, forestry, and afforestation, agriculture, and daylight saving. It is remarkable how much information has been packed into a small space.

*Plant Anatomy from the Standpoint of the Development and Functions of the Tissues and Handbook of Micro-technic.* By Prof. W. C. Stevens. Second edition. Pp. xv+379. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1910.) Price 10s. 6d. net.

THE first edition of Prof. Stevens's work was reviewed in NATURE for July 9, 1908 (vol. lxxviii., p. 219). The present issue has been enlarged by the addition of a chapter on reproduction, and the volume has been revised generally.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

#### The Recent Earthquakes in Asia.

I AM informed by Mr. G. W. Walker, superintendent of Eskdalemuir Observatory, that the records of the seismograph according to the design of Prince Boris Galitzine, which was recently presented by Dr. Arthur Schuster to the observatory, give the positions of the epicentres of the recent earthquakes in Asia as follows:—

January 1, lat.  $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N., long.  $66^{\circ}$  E.

January 3-4, lat.  $42^{\circ}$  N., long.  $77^{\circ}$  E.

The first place is in the Hindu Kush range of Afghanistan, north-west of Cabul. The second is in the north-east of Turkestan, near its junction with the Chinese and Russian Empires.

W. N. SHAW.  
Meteorological Office, South Kensington,  
London, S.W., January 9.

As it is unusual for the Kew magnetographs to be affected by earthquakes, it seems worth mentioning that on the occasion of the Turkestan earthquake, near midnight (G.M.T.) of January 3, both the declination and horizontal force traces show unmistakable effects. The magnets oscillated in a way characteristic of mechanical shocks. According to our Milne seismograph, the preliminary seismic tremors reached Kew about 11.35 p.m., and the large waves about 11.47 p.m., when the limits of registration were exceeded for a minute or so. There was then a comparative lull until about 11.54, when the limits of registration were again exceeded, and these very large movements continued with short interludes for more than fifteen minutes.

The apparent times of commencement of the oscillatory magnetic movements are about 11.53 in the declination and 11.55 in the horizontal force curves, and for four or five minutes the oscillations were so continuous that no