

if possible analytically disposed into orders—better known as “cohorts”—a good description of the families, and an indication of important characters for leading genera. This requires a work of some magnitude, but not more extensive than Warming’s “Systematic Botany,” which follows these lines. Wilhelm’s “Samenpflanzen” defines orders and families, and in the case of large families supplies discriminating characters for subfamilies, but only in occasional instances provides the necessary information for identifying genera.

The arrangement adopted is a modified Eichler-Engler system, prepared by Prof. R. Wettstein for his “Handbuch der systematischen Botanik,” but the diagnostic characters have been redrafted by Dr. Wilhelm. A very valuable feature in the former book is the series of notes pointing out the probable relationships and affinities between various families, thus furnishing an important key to the system; a similar phylogenetic guide would be useful for the book under notice. The plants enumerated include European species, those yielding economic products, and timber trees; by the adoption of different printings it is intended to give an idea of the comparative importance of the various genera. The lists are, so far as observed, both full and accurate.

*The Past at Our Doors, or the Old in the New Around Us.* By W. W. Skeat. Pp. xi+198. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1911.) Price 1s. 6d.

IN this interesting little book Mr. Skeat shows how the past is not only at our doors, but upon our lips. Confining himself in the main to the subjects of food, dress, and the home, he brings together a multitude of facts bearing upon the history of the common objects and events of our domestic environment. The etymological bias is marked, but excusable—perhaps even inherited—and Mr. Skeat does not fail to emphasise the influence of our ancestors upon our deeds, as well as upon our words.

In the “Story of Our Food” the range is from meal times and their names, through the apparatus of the table, to hunting, ploughing, and the preparation of food, with other matters taken by the way. The section on “Dress” follows the general lines of recent works on the subject, and is more fully illustrated than the rest of the volume. The “Story of Our Homes” is chiefly an account of the evolution of the modern dwelling-house, including such furniture as cupboards, dressers, wall-hangings, carpets, and beds.

In view of the great variety of subjects discussed in a small space, some degree of discontinuity was unavoidable, and the book has the character of a work of reference on a small scale. If it is pennicican, it is good pennicican, and full value for the money.

H. S. H.

*Serum and Vaccine Therapy. Bacterial Therapeutics and Prophylaxis Bacterial Diagnostic Agents.* By Prof. R. T. Hewlett. Second edition. Pp. x+406. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1910.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

THE second edition of Prof. Hewlett’s book on serum-therapy, which has just appeared, does not claim to give more than an outline of the mode of preparation and employment of the therapeutic sera and vaccines. As such it ought to prove of service to the student or busy practitioner, who may not have the opportunity or the time to consult the larger works on this subject. It is doubtful, however, if the author has been entirely successful in his effort to condense the subject, for the requirements of the interested medical reader. The authorities quoted, though few, are not always the most authoritative, and their opinions

are too frequently referred to without criticism or comment. A good account is given of the preparation of the antitoxins for diphtheria and tetanus and antivenin. Referring to the employment of antitoxin as a prophylactic against diphtheria, the author is apparently impressed with the objections raised against it on the ground that an anaphylactic state may be induced, and he thinks that a diphtheria-endotoxin, which he is at present elaborating, may prove an efficient substitute for antitoxic serum in prophylaxis. The appearance of this preparation will be awaited with interest by the medical profession. The intracerebral injection of tetanus antitoxin is recommended as the method which gives most hope of success in cases which have lasted any length of time, but it does not seem that trustworthy data on this question are available.

More space might have been devoted to the use of tetanus antitoxin as a prophylactic and to the antimeningococcal and antidysentery sera, both of which have proved of the highest value in practice, and in point of efficiency should follow closely after diphtheria antitoxin.

Other sera, such as antipneumococcal and anti-typhoid, have more space devoted to them than their importance at present warrants.

Vaccine-therapy receives adequate treatment at the author’s hands, but it is somewhat curious that the account should be prefaced by a dissertation on opsonins. These substances should surely take their place in the general scheme of antibodies called forth in response to immunisation.

The closing chapters of the book deal with the preparation of calf lymph, typhoid vaccine, mallein, tuberculin, and sour milk.

We observe at the close of the book certain trade advertisements, the majority of which deal with soured milk or cheese. These appear somewhat out of place in a scientific treatise.

*Handbook of American Indians north of Mexico.* Edited by F. W. Hodge. In two parts; part ii., N.-Z. Pp. iv+1221. (Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30.) (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910.)

THE second and concluding volume of the “Handbook of American Indians north of Mexico” has followed three years after the publication of the first volume. It consists of more than a thousand pages of closely printed matter in double columns; there is in addition a synonymy of 158 pages and an extensive bibliography; unfortunately, the latter is not quite complete. For example, Mr. C. Hill-Tout’s papers on the Salish in the *Journal* of the Royal Anthropological Institute and Reports of the British Association, and his book on “British North America—L., the Far West” (1907), are totally ignored, both here and in the article “Salish.” It is impossible to review a book of this kind as it is composed of an enormous number of notes and short articles written by experts, of whom fifty-four were employed on this volume alone. The information is given succinctly, and in most cases an adequate bibliography is added at the end of each article. There is as large a number of illustrations as space permitted. All those interested in North American ethnology and archæology will appreciate the value of authoritative statements on disputed points, and the references for further information thereon. It is also a great convenience to be able to discover the synonymy of a tribe and to be informed as to what may be regarded as its official designation. As a book of reference it is simply invaluable, and it should find a place in every public library; every ethnologist will procure a copy as a matter of course.