

and these are necessary for the medical expert in those investigations which are essential if the practising physician is to be enabled to base his prescription of climate upon knowledge rather than hearsay and hypothesis. Dr. Gordon gave a new impetus to such research by his inquiry into the effect of rain-bearing winds upon the prevalence of phthisis, and in these lectures he emphasises the need for further detailed investigations of this character; he instances in particular cancer and rheumatic fever as suitable subjects owing to the considerable local variations which he has observed in the distribution of these diseases. The information to be derived from such researches would be useful to the physician in diagnosis and prognosis, as well as in its more obvious applications.

The main thesis of the lectures is the explanation of the origin of the theory that altitude, *per se*, affected the prevalence of phthisis, and the elucidation of the real factor. If the crude death-rate from phthisis is considered, it appears usually that up to about 5000 feet the disease becomes continuously less prevalent as the height increases, even if only an agricultural population is considered. Dr. Gordon has re-examined the statistics in detail, and has arrived at the conclusion that the decrease is mainly due to the more sheltered situations sought by the mountaineer for his habitation. He finds that for places exposed to rain-bearing winds the death-rate may even increase with altitude. The differences in the death-rate between places with different exposures are remarkable; in the Grisons the rate is *three to four times* as great in places exposed to W. winds as in sheltered places, and *two to three times* as great as in places exposed only to E. winds. Such results are of the first importance, and Dr. Gordon is to be congratulated on the success of an arduous piece of research.

E. G.

*The "Wellcome" Photographic Exposure Record and Diary, 1914.* (London: Burroughs Wellcome and Co., 1913.) Price 1s.

THIS neat, handy, and useful little pocket-book contains the concentrated essence of photographic practice, and anyone who has used it once will no doubt, like the writer, continue to secure it annually. The issue for 1914 does not materially differ from that published last year, except that everything is brought up to date. The great success of the tabloid form of developers, &c., is acknowledged by its most general use, and this issue gives, among others, one illustration of Mr. H. G. Ponting using the "Rytol" developer in the hut at the winter quarters, and another by him of the *Terra Nova* off Cape Evans. The special device attached to the cover, which tells the correct exposure at one turn of the disc and the light tables for each month, and factors for plates, films, &c., are special and valuable features of the publication. Ample space is provided for logging the details of each plate or film exposed, and the usual diary portion obviates the necessity of having to carry any other pocket-

book for other memoranda, engagements, &c., Three editions are published, one for the Northern hemisphere, another for the Southern, and a third for the United States. The price of one shilling brings it within the reach of everyone, and the book is well worth the money.

*Chemical Technology and Analysis of Oils, Fats, and Waxes.* By Dr. J. Lewkowitsch. Fifth edition, entirely re-written and enlarged. Vol. i. Pp. xxiii+668. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) Price 25s. net.

THE well-known work of the late Dr. Lewkowitsch was reviewed at some length in these columns on the appearance of the fourth edition some four years ago (*NATURE*, August 19, 1909). In view of the stage of transition through which the subject of fat analysis is now passing, the author would have preferred to wait a little longer before bringing out the present edition, but the exhaustion of the previous issue precluded further delay.

The arrangement of the subject-matter remains much as before, but its bulk has increased considerably, in spite of every endeavour to compress it and eliminate what has become antiquated. Due note has been made of recent progress in the chemistry and technology of fats and oils, so far as the scope of the present volume allows. Attention may be directed, for instance, to the discussions upon the causes of rancidity, the limitations of colour reactions in the examination of oils, the synthesis of glycerides, the hydrolysis of fats by ferments and by chemical catalysts, and the production of "hardened" or "hydrogenised" fats by the reduction of various oils. In short, there is evidence that the volume has undergone a thorough revision in bringing it up to date.

It is to be hoped that the lamented decease of the author will not necessitate any considerable delay in the completion of the new issue. The work was his *magnum opus*, and will remain a worthy memorial of his industry and knowledge.

*The British Empire Universities Modern English Illustrated Dictionary.* Revised under the chief editorship of Edward D. Price and Dr. H. Thurston Peck. Pp. lxxx+1008. (London: The Syndicate Publishing Co., 1914.) Price 20s.

THE illustrations form a noteworthy characteristic of this dictionary; for, as the title-page states, there are coloured plates, monotones, duograph charts and maps. The dictionary proper is preceded by a number of articles by well-known writers designed to promote the intelligent use of the volume; and at the end of the book are many useful and interesting addenda. The type of the dictionary itself is excellent, making reference to it easy and pleasant. With readers indifferent to the price of books the dictionary is likely to become popular, for it is not only trustworthy and exhaustive, but its handsome appearance will make it an ornament to the library table.