

numerable industries depend for their existence. In addition to its value as a text-book on domestic economy, it is well worthy of a place in every textile-worker's library, and can be recommended as a reference book in the household.

WM. SCOTT TAGGART.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

The Reform of the Calendar. By Alexander Philip, Pp. xiii+127. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., 1914.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

MR. PHILIP reminds us that, apart from minor notes, we have discussed different aspects of calendar reform already in these columns (April 27 and October 26, 1911). The reader who looks for enthusiastic advocacy of some change and an account of the various proposals which have been put forward in recent years may be referred to this little book on the subject.

We wish to speak of Mr. Philip with some respect. Not that we regard calendar-making as a high order of achievement, although Mr. Philip's original scheme was probably as good as any other of its class, and certainly a great deal better than some. But he has also the broad mind which appreciates objections and prejudices, and he has been led to reduce his first proposal to a minimum adjustment of the days of the months. The week is left undisturbed, and his present scheme may be represented thus:—

Jan. 31	Feb. 30	Mar. 30	April 31	May 30	June 30 (31)
July 31	Aug. 30	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 30	Dec. 31

Perhaps something might be said in favour of interchanging the second and fourth quarters so as to bring leap day (when it occurs) to the end of the year. But little can be seriously urged against a change which makes the months and quarters more equal and introduces an approximately rhythmic (? dactylic) arrangement. What is to be feared rather is that so slight an adjustment offers so small an advantage, in spite of Mr. Philip's glowing optimism, as to lack the necessary driving force for its adoption. Does there indeed exist a practical middle course between the Scylla of traditional prejudice and the Charybdis of triviality?

H. C. P.

Les Zoocécidies des Plantes d'Europe et du Bassin de la Méditerranée. By C. Houard. Tome Troisième. Supplément: 1909-1912. Pp. 1249-1560. (Paris: A. Hermann et Fils, 1913.) Price 10 francs.

THE rapid progress of cecidology has led Prof. C. Houard to publish a supplement to his two indispensable volumes on the Animal Galls of Europe. This third volume deals with what has been done between 1909 and 1912, and it is astonishing to find a registration of 1,300 new galls,

bringing up the total to 7,556! The author has exercised discretion in what he has included, and he makes an appeal to those interested in galls—and what naturalist is not?—to refrain from rushing into print with new discoveries until they have studied them for, say, two successive years! Everything has been done in the way of double entry and bibliography to make the catalogue serviceable, and both pagination and enumeration are in continuity with the previous volumes. There are 201 illustrations, and there is an appropriate frontispiece with photographs of Rübsaamen, Kieffer, Massalongo, and the late Prof. Giard.

The Principle of Relativity in the Light of the Philosophy of Science. By Paul Carus. Pp. 105. (London and Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co., 1913.) Price 4s. net.

THE author of this work has made up his mind in advance that the question of relativity is a philosophical problem. It is therefore necessary for him to dismiss contemptuously all the history of the purely physical principle technically known as "the principle of relativity." To say as he does that the Michelson-Morley experiment "assuredly has nothing to do with the principle of relativity" is simply to say that the principle is not what it is. The author refuses to call the principle a hypothesis, and asserts "that it is an *a priori* proposition, a postulate of pure thought which either holds good universally or has no validity whatever."

Whatever opinion may be held on this point, it is impossible to say that to the student of dynamics there is no difference in status between rotation and translation. If relativity is a requirement of pure thought, why cannot Newton's laws of motion be used equally well for two frames of reference, of which one is in rotational motion relative to the other? Are those laws wrong, or is pure thought irrelevant to dynamics? One aspect of the principle of relativity is that we do know whether it is convenient to think of a system as having no rotation. This is a matter of common experience. If pure thought denies it, it is clear that it is thinking about something other than the facts with which experiment deals.

Nature and the Idealist. Essays and Poems. By H. D. Shawcross. Pp. xii+186. (London: Sampson Low, Marston and Co., Ltd. n.d.) Price 5s. net.

THE late Mr. Shawcross died last year at the early age of twenty-nine. He was a newspaper journalist whose work had to be done in a busy Lancashire town, though all his instincts and his love for nature would have taken him into the country. His essays and poems reveal much of the struggle he continually had and their merit suggests that had he lived longer he would have become known as a poet and essayist to a wide circle of lovers of nature.