

an account of the process of the greatest value to those practically engaged in cyaniding, and also to students.

The author's chapter on the electrolytic parting of gold and silver, which bids fair to displace the old methods of treatment with sulphuric or nitric acids, is one of the most important in the book. It is not only an excellent *résumé* of the practice followed, but also embraces the valuable experimental work done by the author himself.

Of the chapters on the assay of gold ore and bullion it need only be said that they are worthy of the assayer of the Royal Mint.

Much care has been taken, as in previous editions, in quoting the sources of the information given throughout the book, and the wealth of references in the footnotes is a valuable bibliography of the literature of the subject.

We unreservedly commend the book as being indispensable, not only to students, but also, and especially, to all who are practically engaged in the metallurgy of gold. W. GOWLAND.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

*Apparitions and Thought-Transference: An Examination of the Evidence for Telepathy.* By F. Podmore. New and enlarged edition. Pp. xviii+467. (London: The Walter Scott Publishing Co., Ltd., 1915.) Price 6s.

THIS is a new edition, in the Contemporary Science series, of a book which still remains, after twenty-one years from its first appearance, one of the best introductions to the subject (see review in NATURE, December 6, 1894). The illustrative cases have now inevitably a rather ancient history appearance, and many of them are duplicated in other books, such as Myers's "Human Personality" and Sir Oliver Lodge's "Survival of Man"; it may be urged, therefore, that an entirely fresh treatment of the subject, with due attention to the experiments of Miss Miles and Miss Ramsden and to the S.P.R. cross-correspondences, would have been preferable to a *rechauffé*. Moreover, the author being dead, various slips occur: the American S.P.R. is no longer a branch of the English society; the latter's publisher is now the firm of Maclehose, not R. Brimley Johnson; Dr. Sidis's name is wrongly spelt on p. 260, as Sir Joseph Barnby's is in the index; and there is an inventive misprint of "Boding" for "Bodily" on p. 459, in the reference to Myers's "Human Personality." But these are not very important matters.

Mr. Podmore's thesis is that communication is possible between mind and mind otherwise than through the known channels of the senses. Beginning with the early mesmerists, who in some cases

seem to have hypnotised patients at a distance, he proceeds to cases of transference of pain or of visual images, in the experiments of Dr. Liébeault and the Nancy school generally, and of Prof. and Mrs. Sidgwick and Sir Oliver Lodge; thence to spontaneous cases in dream or hallucination, culled largely from the monumental collection, "Phantasms of the Living," which is now out of print. Possible sources of error are carefully considered and allowed for, and the author's conclusion is—quoting Prof. De Morgan—that either the thesis as above stated is a justified hypothesis, or we must say at leisure what David is reported to have said in his haste. And if the latter—if human testimony is completely untrustworthy—there is an end of history and various other sciences.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact, considering the newness and difficulty of the research, that the opinions expressed in the book would call for little alteration, after twenty-one years, if they were to be revised by a committee representative of the present leaders of the S.P.R. Probably their only qualifying remark would be that it is not quite as certain as Mr. Podmore thought that such phenomena as Mrs. Piper's are completely and truly explained by telepathy. Other hypotheses, more far-reaching but not less essentially scientific if we can free our minds from prejudice, are possible.

Finally, we may remark that the present war presents a scientifically good if morally regrettable opportunity of making exceptional records in psychical research. There is reason to believe that a moment of stress, of great excitement or emotion or concentration, is favourable to the initiation of a telepathic impulse. It is probable that many people at home have become aware of their soldier-relative's wound before the news arrived by normal means. A dream or hallucination may show the nature of the wound, as in Mr. Colt's case in "Human Personality." These experiences should be at once recorded; and if the percipient will send the account, before verification, to the S.P.R., 20 Hanover Square, W., he or she may be assured of sympathetic interest and may be furnishing useful data. Obviously, expectation will account for some of these experiences; but when there is much true detail other suppositions may become necessary. J. A. H.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

*Penrose's Annual*, 1916. Vol. xxi. *The Process Year Book*. Edited by W. Gamble. Pp. 112 + illustrations. (London: Percy Lund, Humphries and Co., Ltd., 1916.) Price 5s. net.

IN taking up an annual that deals with the progress of a handicraft at such a time as this, one naturally looks for the effects of the unprecedented conditions that now afflict us. On the