

Milk-testing by the Babcock method is described, and numerous other tests, such as Hart's test for casein, and the testing of cheese for fat by a modified Babcock method, are given. The accuracy of the latter test is questionable.

(2) Butter-making is somewhat under a cloud at the present time, owing to the impossibility of producing it commercially at a profitable price. The information given by the authors is, however, excellent, and the best up-to-date methods and appliances are described.

The extension of the practice of selling milk, and the facilities now afforded the farmer by the wholesale dealer or the condensing factory, have not encouraged the breeding of cows giving a high percentage of fat in the milk, and it is difficult to see how butter-making can for some time to come compete with cheese-making or milk-selling. Nevertheless, there will always be a good demand for high-class butter, and it is most necessary that the maker should produce an article of prime quality. This volume would not have reached a fourth revision unless it had met with success in previous editions, and both as a manual and a reference book it takes a very high place.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

*Enjoying Life: and Other Literary Remains of W. N. P. Barbellion* [B. F. Cummings]. Pp. xvi + 246. (London: Chatto and Windus, 1919.) Price 6s. net.

THIS book is welcome because it raises a much pleasanter picture of its author than did the rather peevish "Journal" reviewed in these columns in July last. Some of the essays, excluded from the "Journal" for reasons of space, would have illuminated its shadows. One is called "Crying for the Moon," but Barbellion wanted to swallow the Universe. Even those of us who would be content with the World have to learn that it is too large an oyster. Life is a perpetual renunciation of the unattainable. Barbellion had yet to realise that the half is greater than the whole; his only limitations were those of a sickly body, and so he seemed to scorn those who restrained the appetite of the soul. Hence, in the diarist, an apparent poverty of human kindness. But in his outward relations, as Cummings, the defect is made good or hidden. There is sympathy as well as skill in his sketches of Spallanzani, Montagu, Rousseau, and Goldsmith of the "Animated Nature," and even for his colleagues, the Scarabees, he has a good word, for he has begun to realise that the driest museum entomologist may have beneath his dusty coat something of a Barbellion.

It is ungracious to criticise lapses in a posthumous publication, but "Sir Hercules Reed," "Museo di Stovia Naturale," and "Sir Francis Galten" might have been avoided.

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*The Manufacture of Chemicals by Electrolysis.* By Arthur J. Hale. (A Treatise of Electrochemistry.) Pp. xi + 80. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1919.) Price 6s. net.

IN this monograph a brief account is given of the application of electrolysis to the preparation of chemical products. Most of the electrolytic preparations of which a description has been published are referred to, and references to the original publications are given throughout, so that the book is likely to prove a useful guide to the literature of the subject. The reader is, however, left to guess that certain groups of preparations, such as chlorine, sodium, and the alkalis, to which no reference at all is made either in the text or in the preface, are to be described in other monographs of the series. This probably accounts for the impression created on reading the text that the academic aspects of the subject have secured in this volume undue prominence as compared with its industrial applications. If, however, all the really productive processes have been reserved for other writers, and the author of the present volume has been left to cultivate only the more barren areas, he cannot be blamed for the unfruitfulness of so large a proportion of the preparations which he describes, and is rather to be congratulated on having given so good an account of the minor applications of electrolysis to chemical industry.

*A Synoptical List of the Accipitres. (Diurnal Birds of Prey.)* Parts i. and ii. By H. Kirke Swann. (London: John Wheldon and Co., 1919.) Price 4s. per part.

THE literature of an attractive Order of birds receives a notable addition in this work. It is now nearly half a century since the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's "Catalogue of the Accipitres," the latest complete work on the subject, appeared. During this long interval innumerable contributions have been made to the knowledge of the Order relating to the discovery of new species, the recognition of numerous racial forms, changes in nomenclature and classification, extension of geographical range, and much else. Thus a treatise, however modest, which might bring the subject down to date was a desideratum, and now, in a measure, has been supplied in a highly epitomised form by this synoptical list, which furnishes concise diagnostic characters of families, genera, species, and subspecies, and also an indication of the geographical range of each bird. For the species, however, it has been found impossible to deal with any but the plumage of adults, for the varied feather changes through which many species pass ere they assume the garb of maturity could only be satisfactorily described in an elaborate monograph on the Order; as yet there does not appear to be any signs of the advent of such a much needed work. Great care has been bestowed upon the preparation of this list—a task of no small difficulty—and it will be much appreciated by all who are engaged in systematic ornithological studies.