

pluralism as the assumption that our sense-perceptions are due to other "subjects of experience" of a non-material nature, and akin to our own subjective self. Guided by this principle, he discusses determinism and immortality, the relation of mind and body, and certain abnormal phenomena usually called "spiritualistic."

*Unconscious Memory.* By Samuel Butler. Third edition, entirely reset; with an Introduction and Postscript by Prof. Marcus Hartog. Pp. xxxix + 186. (London: A. C. Fifield, 1920.) Price 8s. 6d. net.

THE first edition of this work was reviewed in NATURE for January 27, 1881. The second edition, noticed in NATURE for November 3, 1910, contained an introduction by Prof. Marcus Hartog, giving an outline of Samuel Butler's works and discussing their value to science. In the present edition Prof. Hartog has appended to his introduction a postscript in which he sets forth, briefly, the position of Samuel Butler's biological works in modern science.

*Wild Fruits and How to Know Them.* By Dr. S. C. Johnson. Pp. xi + 132. (London: Holden and Hardingham, Ltd., n.d.) Price 1s. net.

A BRIEF description of most of the trees and shrubs found on the English countryside is given, special attention being paid to the forms of inflorescences and fruits. Identification of specimens is greatly simplified by the large number of sketches, showing both foliage and fruit, which are included. The last chapter is devoted to the commoner plants and weeds which have conspicuous fruits.

*Silver: Its Intimate Association with the Daily Life of Man.* By Benjamin White. (Pitman's Common Commodities and Industries.) Pp. xi + 144. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

THIS volume is more concerned with the statistics and economics of silver than with technology, although an interesting account of the extraction, purification, and utilisation of silver is given. There are many useful tables. An interesting chapter deals with "The Evolution of British Coinage." The book is addressed to the general reader, but contains much of service to teachers and students.

*The Identification of Organic Compounds.* By the late Dr. G. B. Neave and Prof. I. M. Heilbron. Second edition. Pp. viii + 88. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1920.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

THE second edition of this useful manual has undergone practically no alteration. It is one of the best books of its kind, and contains a large amount of information in a handy and compact form. We have no doubt that it will continue to find favour among students and teachers of chemistry.

*Gold: Its Place in the Economy of Mankind.* By Benjamin White. (Pitman's Common Commodities and Industries.) Pp. xi + 130. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) Price 3s. net.

THE steps by which gold has acquired its high value, and its past history with regard to production and uses, are described. The last portion of the book is devoted to a review of the gold stocks in the world and their movements before and during the Great War. A number of tables is included, showing the amount and value of gold in use in various countries; these should be of interest to students of commercial geography and economics.

*Pastimes for the Nature Lover.* By Dr. S. C. Johnson. Pp. 136. (London: Holden and Hardingham, Ltd., n.d.) Price 1s. net.

SOME of the plants and smaller animals commonly found in this country are described, and methods of preserving them or of studying their habits, as the case may be, are given. Silkworms and Nature photography are also mentioned. The book would be of use to young collectors.

#### Letters to the Editor.

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#### University Grants.

I AGREE with Sir Michael Sadler in thinking that the article on university grants in NATURE of August 5 is very opportune, and I concur completely in all that he says on the subject in the issue for August 12. It is not necessary for me to repeat the arguments and the statements so briefly and emphatically expressed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, because I feel sure that everyone with a competent knowledge of the situation in the modern universities would agree that Sir Michael Sadler has by no means understated the gravity of the crisis with which the universities are faced.

At Birmingham, as at Leeds, we have been rigidly economical in our expenditure. We know that we are doing work the value of which is appreciated by our students and the community of the Midlands whom we endeavour to serve. But unless large new grants are forthcoming it will be impossible for us not only to continue to meet those needs, but also to maintain the standard of work in the various departments.

To what Sir Michael Sadler has said I would add only two points:

(1) Unless the stipends of the non-professorial staffs of the universities are placed on something like equality with those obtaining for skilled intellectual work elsewhere, e.g. in the Government service or in the service of the great municipalities, it will be impossible to obtain or retain the men and women with the requisite qualifications for university work; and it is from the members of the non-professorial