

and industrial alcohol, vinegar, acetic acid, acetone, and glycerin.

The task of writing such a book as that before us is no easy one, needing, as it does, the securing of collaborators having both practical and scientific knowledge of the various industries. Whilst it is not for us to criticise the qualifications of Dr. Rideal's collaborators, our reading of the book has led us to the conclusion that it is a condensed account of existing treatises rather than a succinct and original outline of the various chemical industries. References to the literature are given at the end of each part, and these, we submit, would have been better included in the text, so that the reader would know exactly where to find an expansion of any specific phase of the subject. References to journals such as that of the Society of Chemical Industry, without indicating definite papers, are of little use to those who are not specialists, but wish to glean further information on specific points.

The major portion calls for little comment on the score of accuracy, but there are some errors and mis-statements, and among them the following may be cited. Wheat is said in one place to contain 55-65 per cent. of starch, whilst in another place the average starch content is stated to be 68 per cent. The statement that the cheapest form of starch is that derived from the potato is inaccurate, and we can scarcely agree that wheat starch is used as a paste for bill-posting, etc. ! The title "Cane Sugar" and "Beet Sugar" for the sections dealing with the manufacture of sugar from cane and beet respectively might tend to revive the fallacy that sugar from the two sources differs. Goldthorpe barley is a broad-eared, not a narrow-eared, two-rowed barley; it belongs to the variety *Hordeum zeocriton*, not to *Hordeum distichum*. The statement that by the malting process "the insoluble starch of the grain is converted into soluble fermentable sugar" is one long ago exploded.

As a general criticism of this book, we regret being unable to come to any other conclusion than that the editor has failed to achieve his object. We hope that in the near future, with the collaboration of his expert advisers, he will recast the volume so as to eliminate errors and to give a clear and concise outline of the chemical industries dealt with.

ARTHUR R. LING.

### Our Bookshelf

*Magic in Names and in Other Things.* By E. Clodd. Pp. vii+238. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1920.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

DEALING with the question of magic in names, Mr. Clodd expounds with interesting detail a

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chapter in folk-lore familiar to serious students, but well deserving treatment in a more popular form. His book is, in the main, a study of magic, or, to use the new word, "mana," "the sense of a vague, impersonal, ever-acting, universally diffused power" immanent in all things. His special subject, the name, is well defined in a quotation from Mr. Cornford which appears on his title-page: "Language, that stupendous product of the collective mind, is a duplicate, a shadow-soul, of the whole structure of reality; it is the most effective and comprehensive tool of human power, for nothing, whether human or superhuman, is beyond its reach." Hence the preliminary discussion of the mana in a man's hair or spittle, through which the magician can work evil against the owner, merges into a detailed consideration of the name. Evil can be worked against you by anyone who knows your name, and hence it is wise to have two names, one concealed, one for daily use. This leads to the more serious name of power, curses and charms, passwords and spells, the "mantram" of the Hindu, by means of which even the gods themselves can be coerced. The Mohammedan knows the Ninety-and-Nine Names of Allah, and by repeating them over and over again for days he gains magical power. This exposition, always clear and impressive, even if at times the religious views of the author are disclosed with undue emphasis, is supported by an accumulation of interesting facts drawn from a wide range of study of the thought of primitive peoples and of popular belief throughout the world. Folk-lore, as an expression of primitive psychology, has too long remained the possession of the expert, and any attempt to popularise it is welcome. This is Mr. Clodd's achievement, and his exposition of this chapter of popular belief proves the value of the study as a key to unlock the mind of man, which no historian or sociologist in the future can safely neglect.

*The Civil Servant and his Profession.* Pp. viii+124. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) Price 3s. 6d. net.

THE Society of Civil Servants has organised a series of lectures on various aspects of the profession, and the book under notice contains five of the lectures which were given in March last, with an introductory address by Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith. The first lecture, by the late Sir Robert Morant, deals with the administrative side of the Civil Servant's profession; the second, by Lord Haldane, with the legal aspects; the third, by Sir Sidney Harmer, is on the subject of national museums and scientific research; the fourth, by Mr. E. F. Wise, treats of the relationship between the Civil Service and industry; and the last, by Mr. J. Lee, deals with the psychology of the Civil Servant. This collection of lectures will give the public some idea of the diversity, importance, and highly technical nature of the work which is performed by the staff of men and women who constitute the Civil Service.