

Hertz, the outlying British station founded in 1914 in response to Chinese designs on this remote part of Burma. Capt. Ward has much to say about the isolated plain of Hkamti Long, where Fort Hertz lies, and the curious dwindling remnant of the Shans who inhabit this fertile plain hemmed in by the Kachins. The narrative, without being thrilling, has a sustained interest throughout, for the author not only shows considerable descriptive power, but he also avoids boring his readers with the details of camp and trail which loom so large in many travel volumes. What Capt. Ward has to say about the routes on the frontier in relation to Chinese policy deserves careful attention, for he writes with knowledge and authority on this remote and neglected corner of the Empire. The illustrations are excellent, but the two maps are disappointing.

*Six Papers by Lord Lister, with a Short Biography and Explanatory Notes.* By Sir Rickman J. Godlee. (Medical Classics Series.) Pp. vii+194+iv plates. (London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., 1921.) 10s. net.

DR. CHARLES SINGER, general editor of "The Classics of Medicine" series, has made a good beginning. We are to have, in due time, Ambrose Paré, Laennec, Auenbrugger, Hippocrates, Galen. Meanwhile, we have Sir Rickman Godlee's admirable selection of six of Lister's papers, with a short introductory memoir—too short, indeed, for those of us who are not familiar with Godlee's Life of Lister. Plainly, the difficulty was to decide, in all the wealth of Lister's published writings, what to leave out. It may be that the interest of the paper on anaesthetics (1861) is impaired by the progress of sixty years. But the other five papers, which cover the long period from 1857 to 1890, are of everlasting value. They give us, in Lister's own words, the course and the development of Lister's own work. For the present generation of young physicians and surgeons, they are a sure guide to the principles on which antiseptic and aseptic surgery was founded and built.

But this book is something more than a handful of reprints, for the explanatory notes to each paper are as good as good can be, and the introductory memoir is delightfully written. In short measure, it is perfect. To all of us who knew Lister it recalls with singular vividness the look of his face, the sound of his voice, the temper of his life and work—a man pure in heart, gentle, patient, laborious, self-critical, thankful to be of service to mankind.

*A New British Flora: British Wild Flowers in their Natural Haunts.* Described by A. R. Horwood. (In six vols.) Vol. i., pp. ix+244; vol. ii., pp. xi+243+xvii plates. (London: The Gresham Publishing Co., Ltd., 1919.) 12s. 6d. net per vol.

THE first two volumes of this work have appeared. It is evidently intended for the naturalist rather

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than for the botanist as such, although it aims at dealing with British plants from the ecological point of view. The first volume, which is introductory, includes an account of the origin of the British flora and of the floral regions of the world, geological and altitudinal maps of the British Isles, and chapters on insect pollination, seed dispersal, and similar topics. The second volume deals with plants of the fields and meadows, corn-fields, and the sea-coast. The work is illustrated by many coloured plates from drawings by Fitch, and by a large number of photographs of the plants in the field, many of which are excellent. The drawing (vol. i., p. 147) which is supposed to illustrate heterostyly in *Primula* does not really illustrate anything. Popular names, folk-lore, and points of natural history interest are included with regard to each plant. As a semi-popular work this should serve a useful purpose in directing the attention of naturalists to the ecological point of view with regard to plants.

*The Nature of Enzyme Action.* By Prof. W. M. Bayliss. Fourth edition. (Monographs on Biochemistry.) Pp. viii+190. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1919.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE appearance of a fourth edition of this admirable monograph testifies to the fact that the work has earned the suffrage of research workers and students alike. The author has been at pains to keep the successive editions abreast of the rapidly growing knowledge of the subject. The present issue differs from its predecessor chiefly in the fact that the chapter on the mode of action of enzymes has been rewritten.

To those unacquainted with the earlier editions it may be said that the object of the book is not merely to give an account of enzymes, but also to define the relation of these "biocatalysts" to catalysts in general.

*The Practical Electrician's Pocket Book for 1921.* Edited by H. T. Crewe. Twenty-third annual issue. Pp. lxxii+522. (London: S. Rentell and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 3s. net.

THIS pocket-book will prove useful to all engaged in industries in which electricity is employed. It contains the rules and regulations for electrical installations, the standard wire tables, useful hints about electrical machines and apparatus, and *résumés* of the theory of steam and gas engines, photometry and pyrometry. The information given is trustworthy.

*A Book of Gardening for the Sub-Tropics.* By Mary Stout and Madeline Agar. Pp. 200. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1921.) 6s. net.

THIS little book is designed for those who, living abroad, wish to know something about gardening under sub-tropical conditions. It applies particularly to the Cairo district, and includes such topics as propagation, pests, roses, and chrysanthemums, and a calendar for the flower-garden.