

find and which might have made the history of real value is omitted. One illustration is typical. There is a chapter entitled "From Fechner to Wundt." If the reader should refer to it for an account of the psycho-physical law which has made Fechner's name famous, this is what he will find:—"The law known as the 'Weber-Fechner Law' has been so often described and discussed that we may be excused the task of repeating its definition." Practically all we are told about it is that "volumes have been written on it."

*The Bases of Agricultural Practice and Economics in the United Provinces, India.* By Dr. H. Martin Leake. With a foreword by J. MacKenna. Pp. viii+277. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 1921.) 15s. net.

THE author of this illuminating book has applied himself to the elucidation of the bases and development of agricultural practice and economics, showing how improvements in methods of farming must necessarily be associated with the due recognition of economic factors if true advance is to be made. Although the text deals solely with India, the underlying principles are applicable to agriculture the world over, and the book throws fresh light upon the new problems that are constantly arising now that scientific principles and methods are being more widely applied to farm practice.

Agricultural practice is essentially based on the relations between the soil and atmospheric conditions and the crops grown, and these are set forth factor by factor, careful distinction being made between those which can and those which cannot be controlled. Possibilities of development and improvement are discussed with special reference to such points as hybridisation and selection, cultivation and manuring, as adapted to Indian conditions. Parallel with this, the economic aspect is considered, particular stress being laid on the possibilities that lie in co-operation of various kinds as a factor in the encouragement of agricultural development.

The book is strongly to be recommended, not only to those connected with Indian agriculture, but also to all who are interested in the progress of modern scientific farming, for the conditions discussed are so varied that they provide scope for the consideration of strongly contrasted aspects of the subject.

W. E. B.

*Groundwork of Surgery.* (For First-year Students.) By Arthur Cooke. Pp. viii+183. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Ltd., 1919.) 7s. 6d. net.

WRITTEN by one who is himself a thinker, worker, and teacher, this book furnishes the beginner with an excellent introduction to the science, art, and craft of surgery. Most manuals are addressed by the expert to other experts, or at least to advanced students. In the present volume the author sets himself, very successfully, to lay the

foundations on which a more detailed knowledge may be reared. The ground which surgery covers is indicated, and its broad outlines are defined; space is given to preventive treatment and surgical sanitation generally; and the main surgical affections of the different regions of the body are described. The book may be cordially recommended.

*College Botany: Structure, Physiology, and Economics of Plants.* By Dr. M. T. Cook. Pp. x+392. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1920.) 12s. 6d. net.

IT is said of this book by the author that it is "an effort to meet present conditions," but it is not very clear what these conditions are. The book is divided into sections on morphology, physiology, and classification, the last including general descriptions of the great plant groups. Some of the drawings, such as Fig. 30, representing a lenticel, and Fig. 152, depicting the pine cone and its parts, can only be described as crude; but the photographs of individual plants, of which there are many, are much more successful. A number of maps are given showing the various areas of crop production in the United States, and economic plants of all kinds are frequently introduced into the descriptions. The book would seem to be most suitable for American students beginning the study of agriculture.

*Experimental Organic Chemistry.* By Prof. A. P. West. (New-World Science Series.) Pp. xiii+469. (London: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1921.) 10s. 6d. net.

THEORY and laboratory experiments in organic chemistry are combined in this book. Only the more important compounds are discussed, and experiments of a difficult or dangerous character are purposely omitted. Review tables, giving at a glance the chemistry of groups of compounds, are supplied at frequent intervals. The theoretical part of the book is somewhat less satisfactory than the practical, for it is frequently very condensed. The book is well printed and illustrated. This is one of the very few elementary books on organic chemistry which give an accurate description of fractional distillation.

*Reports of the Progress of Applied Chemistry: Issued by the Society of Chemical Industry.* Vol. v. 1920. Pp. 626. (London: Society of Chemical Industry, n.d.) 15s.

THE annual reports on the progress of applied chemistry issued by the Society of Chemical Industry fulfil the same functions for applied chemistry as do the annual reports of the Chemical Society for pure chemistry. They constitute a most useful and authoritative review of the work done during the year. The present volume is the work of experts in the various branches of applied chemistry, and can be recommended to all who wish to keep in touch with the rapid progress of chemical technology.