The new system of practice, which forms the subject of the last chapter, is obviously chiefly concerned with rapid (time-saving) work, with a view to the inclusion of some crystallographical account of all new substances, as well as existing ones, in a comprehensive catalogue, or to the identification of a crystallised substance by the comparison of such rapidly acquired data with that contained in such a compendium of measured substances. Two-circle methods are used, and the table of angles characteristic of a substance consists of the theodolitic ϕ azimuth and ρ altitude values. It is suggested that "two, or at most three, crystals be measured," that "the indices be determined by a time-saving method," that "the mean observed angles be published without any citation of limits," and that "the practice of computing theoretical angular values (apart from those involved in the elements) be discontinued." This may satisfy Mr. Barker, and may possibly be adequate for the particular purpose which he has in view. But it is most sincerely to be hoped that serious crystallographic research is not to be so circumscribed, and that absolute accuracy will be placed before time-saving. Otherwise we shall rapidly revert to former chaos. It has been, indeed, only by the most accurate and laborious work, in which time was regarded as subservient to the highest accuracy, that the subject has been brought to its present high position; this alone has rendered possible the wonderful confirmation, by the absolute measurements now made by the Bragg X-ray spectrometric method, of the work of the later crystallographers.

Our Bookshelf.

Magnetism and Electricity. By J. Paley Yorke. New edition, completely rewritten. Pp. viii + 248. (London: E. Arnold and Co., 1922.) 5*s*. net.

WRITTEN in colloquial language, this book, which is a first-year course on magnetism and electricity, will appeal to many beginners besides the students in technical institutions, for whom it is primarily intended. "These students have one great quality: they are out to learn and to understand, and as they are not hampered by the immediate necessity of cramming for any particular examination, are able to enjoy the pleasures of understanding instead of suffering the terrors of memorising. . . . Memory is useful for examinees, but understanding is essential for engineers." There is abundant evidence throughout these pages that the author is familiar with the difficulties met with by the beginner, and he is always careful to explain the technical terms which are apt to be used freely by text-book writers who have almost forgotten that their jargon is not that of the man in the street. Magnetism is first dealt with, and then the ideas of static and current electricity are introduced. The author is particularly successful in developing the self-contained water circuit analogy, the basic idea of which is that energy can be distributed without any consumption of the water. Experience has convinced him that the plan of introducing the measurement of electrical energy at an early stage is very effective. The basic ideas of electro-magnetic induction are discussed in some detail, and in the final chapters the phenomena of electrostatics are briefly treated. We can recommend the book to those for whom it is intended, but fear to think what the modern relativist would have to say to such statements as, "Anything which has weight is called *Matter*: magnetism is therefore not matter" (page 21); "This something which is called energy has not got weight" (page 57)!

The Climates of the Continents. By W. G. Kendrew. Pp. xvi + 387. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1922.) 21*s*. net.

MR. KENDREW strikes new ground by giving a description of the actual climates of the regions of the world. The scope of the treatment must naturally vary with the nature of the original sources which are available, but no detailed local descriptions are attempted. A general knowledge of meteorology is assumed. There is no explanation of the omission of polar climates, north and south. Quite enough is now known of these climates to enable useful accounts to be included in a book of this sort. The oversight mars the usefulness of the volume. We notice that Mr. Kendrew adheres to the idea that the heating of north-west India furnishes an explanation of the south-west monsoon. The comparatively poor rainfall in the north-west he attributes to the previous course of the winds reaching that region, which has deprived them of much of their moisture. According to Dr. G. C. Simpson, the explanation is far more complex, and depends on several factors, of which one of importance is the dry upper-air current from the west, which prevents cloud formation in the ascending air. These and other recent theories regarding the monsoon are not discussed by Mr. Kendrew. There are many clear diagrams and maps, and numerous meteorological data. All students of geography will be grateful for this well-arranged and lucidly written volume.

Miracles and the New Psychology: A Study in the Healing Miracles of the New Testament. By E. R. Micklem. Pp. 143. (London: Oxford University Press, 1922.) 7*s*. 6*d*. net.

THIS work is concerned with a comparison between the healing miracles described in the New Testament and the case records of modern psychotherapy chiefly drawn from war practice. A brief description of modern psychotherapeutic measures is given, but the complexity and difficulty of the subject almost necessarily makes such a sketch confusing to the uninitiated reader. The sources of the New Testament narratives are examined and the inexactitude of observation is commented upon, especially in the fourth gospel. The current superstitions anent the relationship of sin and disease and demonology are noticed as likely to colour and detract still further from the trustworthiness of the descriptions.

The miracles are then dealt with *seriatim*, and where possible, recent parallel cases are quoted. Finally, the author disclaims the belief that all the subjects of the