

some matter referring to the loss of power at altitudes in aero engines. Two methods have been proposed for getting rid of this difficulty, namely, the production of an artificial atmosphere by means of a blower in the carburettor intake, or using an oversize engine, which is kept throttled down at low altitude. In either case, the object is to design an engine which can develop constant power up to a certain height. For altitudes up to 20,000 feet, the over-dimensioned engine appears to be considered the simpler solution.

*Mazes and Labyrinths: A General Account of Their History and Developments.* By W. H. Matthews. Pp. xviii + 254. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1922.) 18s. net.

MR. MATTHEWS, who does not pretend to be a trained archaeologist, tells us that his book originated in a question addressed to him by his little son as he played on the seashore, "Father, who made mazes first of all?" As his bibliography shows, he has studied the literature of the subject, and he has collected much information summarised in a popular way. He begins with the two great labyrinths of antiquity, that at Knossos in Crete, and the second near Lake Moeris in Egypt. In describing these, he depends on the safe guidance of Sir A. E. Evans and Prof. Flinders Petrie. The former was based on a tradition of the complex of buildings forming the royal palace, the latter was possibly used for sepulchral purposes. Though, as Sir James Frazer suggests, the dancing-places associated with these ancient labyrinths may have been used in some magical way connected with sun worship, it is difficult to connect them with modern mazes, like those at Hampton Court or Hatfield, adjuncts to garden planning, and intended for the amusement of visitors. The best part of the book is the collection from various sources of illustrations of various types of mazes. Many of these have been destroyed in modern times, and this book may serve a useful purpose in directing attention to their interest, and may tend towards the preservation of those which survive to our day.

*The Outdoor Boy.* Edited by Eric Wood. (The Modern Boy's Library.) Pp. 280. (London: Cassell and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 5s. net.

PROBABLY no class of the community takes a greater interest in the education of their sons than the readers of NATURE. While the most suitable form of education will long remain the subject of debate, few will deny the importance of the out-of-doors side, both from the point of view of awakening a love for and an interest in Nature and preparing for the duties of citizenship.

The book before us, one of a series edited by Mr. Eric Wood, is divided between scout-craft and Nature-craft, the idea being to convey to the boy in a clear and simple manner many of those things which he most wishes to know. The scout-craft section appears to us most admirable and should be a mine of information to many a boy who is unable to join an actual scout troop. The Nature-craft section consists of an excellent chapter on bird study and similar chapters packed with information about the insect world. Boys upon whom we have tried the test find it altogether admirable.

*A Text-book of Quantitative Chemical Analysis.* By Dr. A. C. Cumming and Dr. S. A. Kay. Fourth edition. Pp. xv + 432. (London: Gurney and Jackson; Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1922.) 15s. net.

THE first edition of this book was published in 1913, and the appearance of the fourth edition less than ten years later shows that it has been found in practice a most useful guide to students. The present volume should provide a sound course of quantitative analysis for students in universities and technical schools. It is very practical, and gives many hints to students which will save the time of teachers. The reduction method with Devarda's alloy might have been given for the estimation of nitrates, instead of the one with reduced iron, which is less satisfactory. In the description of the Lunge nitrometer no mention is made of the important correction for the solubility of nitric oxide in the acid. The directions for the preparation of cupferron reagent on p. 410 will be found useful, as the price charged for this substance is almost prohibitive.

*Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego.* By Dr. Sigm. Freud. Authorised translation by James Strachey. (The International Psycho-Analytical Library, No. 6.) Pp. v + 134. (London: G. Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1922.) 7s. 6d. net.

A GOOD and clear translation of Freud's short essay on group psychology is given by Mr. Strachey. The work begins by a brief examination of the views of earlier writers, particularly of Le Bon and McDougall. Freud's own method of approach to social psychology is naturally by way of an analysis of the motives of individual behaviour. He treats the group as a collection of persons bound together by some form of love relationship, and to the formation of the group ascribes what to many will appear to be an overweighted importance to the leader. His discussions of the phenomena of "identification," and of the relations of "being in love and hypnosis," are interesting in themselves; but his application of the results of his discussions to the explanation of social behaviour is not convincing.

*Elementary Organic Chemistry.* By W. H. Barrett. Pp. 256. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1922.) 4s. 6d. net.

DURING the last two or three years a number of elementary books on organic chemistry have appeared, and it may be doubted whether any purpose is served by further multiplication of the same material treated in the same way. The present volume has no very new features, but it gives a very clear and interesting account of the fundamental facts and theories of organic chemistry suitable for students preparing for scholarships at the universities. It also provides a course suitable for those beginning the subject in the universities, and for medical students. Experiments are included. The section on stereochemistry is particularly good, and a chapter is devoted to general methods of synthesis and analysis. The very moderate price of the book and its undoubted merit should make it popular.