

prices, are considered and discussed, and the reasons for the treatment are pointed out.

The book is the best that we have seen treating of the coconut palm, and should be in the hands of every one interested in the industry.

*Department of Applied Statistics (Computing Section), University of London, University College. Tracts for Computers.* (1) No. 4: *Tables of the Logarithms of the Complete  $\Gamma$ -Function to Twelve Figures.* Originally computed by A. M. Legendre. Pp. iv+10. 1921. (2) No. 8: *Table of the Logarithms of the Complete  $\Gamma$ -Function (for Arguments 2 to 1200, i.e. beyond Legendre's Range.)* By Egon S. Pearson. Pp. x+16. 1922. (3) No. 9: *Log  $\Gamma(x)$  from  $x=1$  to 50.9 by intervals of 0.1.* By Dr. John Brownlee. Pp. 23. 1923. (London: Cambridge University Press, 1923.) 3s. 9d. net each.

(1) This tract gives a reprint of Legendre's table originally published in the (now rare) second volume of his "Traité des fonctions elliptiques" (1825). It records the numerical value of  $\log_{10} \Gamma(p)$  from 1.000 to 2.000, at intervals of 0.001, to twelve places of decimals, together with the first, second, and third differences for interpolation.

(2) In the second tract before us we have  $\log_{10} \Gamma(p)$ , correct to ten decimal places, for values of  $p$  at intervals of 0.1 from 2.0 to 5.0, of 0.2 from 5.0 to 70.0, and of a unit from 70 to 1200. Second and fourth differences are tabulated also, giving all necessary assistance in evaluating the function for intermediate values of  $p$ . From the last entry it can be inferred that  $\Gamma(1200)$ , or 1199!, is an integer of 3173 digits.

(3) Finally we have  $\log_{10} \Gamma(p)$  tabulated to seven decimals at intervals of 0.01 from 1.0 to 50.9. This pamphlet rounds off the work on the  $\Gamma$ -function in the present series of tracts.

*The Diseases of the Tea Bush.* By T. Petch. Pp. xii+220. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1923.) 20s. net.

THIRTY years ago planters were inclined, when an outbreak of disease occurred among their crops, to conceal it from general knowledge or observation as much as possible, the result being that little or nothing was known, from a scientific point of view, of the diseases attacking tea. As time has gone on, however, this has altered. Watt and Mann, in 1903, described about a dozen diseases, and in the present volume the number has increased to about sixty. Whether more harm is now being done by disease, however, is very doubtful; on the whole it is perhaps less.

The book is prefaced by one of the simplest and best introductions to the study of fungi that we have yet seen. The diseases are treated in order, according to whether they attack leaves only, leaf and stem, stem, or root; and for each disease the characteristic manifestations are described, with excellent figures of the most important, while at the end of the book instructions are given for the preparation of Bordeaux and other fungicidal mixtures for spraying—a treatment which has come into considerable use during recent years, and leaves but an infinitesimal trace of copper in the tea.

*Bau und Entstehung der Alpen.* Von Prof. Dr. L. Kober. Pp. iv+283+8 Tafeln. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1923.) 12s.

Two years ago attention was directed to Prof. L. Kober's view that folded mountain-chains are marginal features of a geosynclinal "orogen" nipped between two mutually approaching masses of "kratogen" in the depths (NATURE, vol. 108, October 20, 1921, p. 236). The present work embodies a lucid review of the researches of the last forty years in the Alpine region, which is intimately known to the author from the Pennines to the Transylvanian wall. Through all details, however, he maintains his outlook on the world at large. In neat diagrams he shows how a dual structure is traceable in the western United States, in the Caledonian orogen of Scotland and Scandinavia, and in the axis of Japan. The floor of the Téthys channel (Fig. 2) has been squeezed up here and there to form mountain bulges from Andalusia to Sumatra, over a distance of 14,000 km. In the Alpine region only, a one-sided character has been imparted to the mountain-mass, and this is due to the fact that the southern marginal range, the Dinaric, has been moved northward until part of it overlies the east Alpine sheet. In agreement with H. Roothaan (1918), Prof. Kober (p. 252) places the beginning of Alpine overfolding in Cretaceous times, and the main movements in the Oligocene period. To quote the final words of this stimulating volume, "noch manche Rätsel bergen die Alpen." G. A. J. C.

*Colour Index.* Edited by Dr. F. M. Rowe. Part 1. Pp. viii+48. (Bradford: Society of Dyers and Colourists, n.d.) n.p.

THIS is the first part of a work that is being published, in fourteen monthly parts, by the Society of Dyers and Colourists, Bradford, with the object of making available, in the English language, to dye users and all interested in colouring matters, the latest information concerning commercial dyes, their constitution, modes of preparation, and uses.

Part 1 deals with the nitroso, the nitro, and a portion of the azo colours, while it is understood that when the work is completed it will contain descriptions of some 1300 distinct synthetic colouring matters.

The information is set out in tabular form, closely resembling that used in the well-known "Farbstofftabellen" of Schultz, but with the welcome addition of ample space for notes, and brought up-to-date by the inclusion of much information that is lacking in the "Farbstofftabellen."

It is well produced, and is a work that should be in the hands of all who are interested in colouring matters, whether from a scientific or practical point of view.

*The Birth of Psyche.* By L. Charles-Baudouin. Translated by F. Rothwell. Pp. xxiii+211. (London: G. Routledge and Sons, Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1923.) 5s. net.

A SELECTION of short memories of childhood written as prose poems with a distinct consciousness of scientific value in their significance. The author has written a preface to the English translation, in which he defends the presentation of scientific material in poetical form.