

puts forward a scheme whereby he considers that syphilis could be almost entirely eliminated in a generation. Briefly, it consists in compulsory notification to a special Medical Officer of Health, who visits the victim, ascertains from whom the disease was contracted, and traces that individual. Infected persons are given the choice between treatment at a hospital and attendance on a physician of their own selection. Heavy penalties are attached to the doctor who fails to notify, and to the individual who conveys disease to another before being certified free from infection. Such a scheme might, however, defeat its own ends by driving the patient to abstain from treatment altogether or to obtain it secretly and illicitly at the hands of quacks.

The sections on symptoms and treatment, which comprise the greater part of the book, are clear, concise and fully up-to-date. For the student and general practitioner who have not the time to devote to large text-books, there could not be a better guide.

*Abridged Scientific Publications from the Research Laboratory of the Eastman Kodak Company.* Vol. 6, 1922. Pp. 238+vii. (Rochester, N.Y.: Eastman Kodak Co., 1923.) n.p.

OWING to the increasing number of communications from the Eastman Kodak Laboratory, it has been decided to issue a volume of abridgments every year. The present volume deals with the papers that were published in 1922, many of which were referred to in our columns when they first appeared. These abridgments are not mere statements of the subjects dealt with, but are the papers themselves, shortened somewhat by the omission of some of the details that are not necessary to the understanding of the work done and its results. Those specially interested will naturally consult the original publication for fuller particulars and especially for more complete data. The 30 papers included in the volume are classified under the headings of physical and photographic optics; inorganic, organic, physical, and colloid chemistry; photographic theory, and practical photography. The character of the work done is now so well known that it is not necessary to enlarge upon it, except to say that several new instruments are described that have been constructed to enable investigations to be carried further than has hitherto been possible.

*The Amphibia of the Indo-Australian Archipelago.* By Prof. Dr. P. N. van Kampen. Pp. xii + 304. (Leyden: E. J. Brill, Ltd., 1923.) n.p.

THE Malay Archipelago, consisting as it does of a large number of islands separated in many cases from one another by very deep sea, has yielded many very interesting problems in the science of the geographical distribution of animals. Nothing perhaps could afford more useful information in the attempt to solve these problems than a thorough knowledge of that essentially terrestrial and freshwater group, the Amphibia.

Prof. van Kampen, of the University of Leyden, has therefore rendered great service by preparing for the use of students a critical study of the 254 species that are known to occur in the Dutch archipelago together with New Guinea, the Bismarck archipelago and the Solomon Islands. The descriptions of the species are mainly technical in character, but so far as possible

an account of the tadpoles and some notes on habit are included. There is a useful synopsis of characters at the head of each family and genus, and there are a few excellent illustrations.

*Ophthalmic-Optical Manual.* By William Swaine. Pp. v + 152. (London: The Hatton Press, Ltd., n.d.) 5s. net.

WE welcome the appearance of this little volume, because there is a real need for a practical handbook on the main essentials of sight-testing. In this book the subject is treated in a scientific manner seldom adopted in text-books of this nature. The more recent developments of sight-testing are considered; of particular interest are the corrections required to flat trial-case refraction values when toric and similar lenses are to be used. This was first pointed out by the author and is as yet scarcely appreciated by the average optician. The unit planes of such lenses are in quite different positions (relative to the eye) from those of the standard trial case lens, and consequently the refraction values for such lenses have to be materially altered. In addition, a number of very useful tables have been included, and these, together with an exhaustive index, make it a valuable reference book.

*Warley Garden in Spring and Summer.* By Ellen Willmott. Second edition. Pp. ii + 41 plates. (London: Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 1924.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS series of beautiful pictures of a famous garden would have been of some general interest had they been accompanied by a plan of the Warley Garden and some particulars about the plants that are in cultivation there. As it is, they are merely a collection of pictures, some of which are of no great merit. Among the best are the Alpine primroses, Plate 5, and the Nankeen lilies, Plate 31, but had the actual names of the plants depicted been given, in these and other cases, the volume would have been of far greater value to those interested in gardens.

It is to be regretted that a garden, which has so much charm and is owned by a lady who is so fitted to describe it, is merely illustrated in this series of pictures and all that is of real value is left unrecorded.

*Unscientific Essays.* By Prof. Frederic Wood Jones. Pp. 208. (London: E. Arnold and Co., 1924.) 6s. net.

A MAN is largely known to his friends by his hobbies, and clearly our author's hobby is to sit and reflect, occasionally feeling himself stimulated to jot down what he feels or has seen. He has a broad experience of the wild, both on sea and land, almost unexplored coral reefs of Malay and deserts of Australia. He liked the natives with whom he came into contact, and frequently he has blended folk-lore into his themes, this being perhaps the most interesting feature of his book. He tells us the crab's secret, and of course he caught a sea-serpent, his account of which we first saw repeated in the daily press with references to his official position as a professor of anatomy. As such, journalists apparently supposed him to have no lighter moments; his essays are just the thing for our ease.