

since that author is well known as one of the leading dipterists of to-day. The book is based upon material submitted to him by the British Museum and the Imperial Bureau of Entomology as well as from the Museums in Cape Town, Buda-Pest, and Genoa, and also from Messrs. Alluaud and Jeannel in Paris. This wealth of specimens, together with those in the author's own collection, has made it possible to produce a monograph of great value. In addition to diagnostic keys and descriptions, all available biological data, however scanty, is included under each species together with notes on the known life-histories. It is hoped that, with the aid to identification thus provided, African entomologists will be stimulated to study the remarkable metamorphoses of these insects. Their larvæ are all parasites and have a wide range of hosts. The unexpected discovery of *Thridanthrax abruptus* parasitising the puparia of tsetse-flies is but a bare indication of what awaits investigation in the Ethiopian region. The book is admirably printed and illustrated, while the revision of the English manuscript by Major Austen has ensured this arduous task being carried out capably.

*Distillation du bois.* Par Prof. G. Dupont. (Encyclopédie Léauté, 2<sup>e</sup> série.) Pp. xv+284. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie; Masson et Cie, 1924.) 25 francs.

THE general treatment in this work is on somewhat similar lines to that followed in recent British and American text-books on the subject. Special attention is given to the distillation of resinous woods, and an interesting account of wood distillation plants is included, the text being made clear with numerous diagrams. There is a certain lack of proportion in the presentation of facts. Nearly one-third of the book is given over to an account, such as is available in numerous organic text-books, of the elementary chemistry of acetic acid and methyl alcohol, and of simple derivatives of these, yet the study of the gaseous products from the thermal decomposition of wood is intentionally neglected. Again, the analytical section is considerably restricted. The space occupied by this important subject is only half that given to the preparation and properties of formaldehyde, and it is doubtful if the meagre information therein contained will be of much real value to the analyst.

The monograph cannot be regarded as a handbook for the specialist. It is rather a general account of certain aspects of wood distillation presented in a form which will be attractive to the general reader and science student.

J. REILLY.

*Aristotelian Society.* Supplementary Vol. 4. *Concepts of Continuity: the Papers and Symposia for discussion at the XIVth Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, at University College, Reading, July 11-14, 1924.* Pp. vi+240. (London: Williams and Norgate, 1924.) 15s. net.

THE papers read at the summer meeting of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, though inspired with a distinctively philosophical motive, are of more than usual scientific interest. All in some form deal with the subject which gives the title to the volume, the concept of continuity.

Prof. Chevalier's article "Le Continu et le Discontinu" is designed to prove that though the problem of continuity is fundamental in mathematics and physics, it can be resolved only by philosophical arguments.

Three of the five symposia deal with scientific problems. One on the quantum theory discusses how far it modifies or can be made to accord with the definitions of continuity accepted in mathematics, physics, and psychology. The papers are by Dr. Nicholson, Mrs. Wrinch-Nicholson, Prof. Lindemann, and Prof. Wildon Carr. A second deals with the biological problem of the transmission of mental characters. This is discussed by Profs. Johnstone, Dendy, MacBride, and Lloyd Morgan. A third deals with the implications of the term "law" in psychology. The papers are by Mr. Wolters, Dr. McIntyre, and Dr. Levine.

*Chemical Thermodynamics: an Introduction to General Thermodynamics and its Applications to Chemistry.* By Prof. J. R. Partington. Pp. vii+275. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 10s. 6d. net.

A NEW edition of Prof. Partington's "Text-book of Thermodynamics with special reference to Chemistry" (1913) has been desired for some time, and those who are familiar with that work will welcome it in its new form under the title "Chemical Thermodynamics." The treatment has been simplified as well as brought up-to-date. Any one who is familiar with the large number of relevant papers published during the past decade will marvel at the skill with which the material has been incorporated. The author has made a special feature of the inclusion of much recent work published in American journals. "The accurate experiments, and the ingenious and original treatment, of the American workers on this subject will make all admit gratefully the debt which students in other countries owe to them." A point which teachers will appreciate is that the equations have been stated, so far as possible, in a form capable of direct numerical application, and many examples, with answers, have been provided. It is a convenience to have the numbers of the paragraphs printed on the inside edges at the tops of the pages. The book will prove indispensable to students of chemistry and physics alike.

*Spectroscopy.* By Prof. E. C. C. Baly. (Text-books of Physical Chemistry.) In 2 vols. Third edition. Vol. 1. Pp. xi+298. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1924.) 14s. net.

THE new edition of Prof. Baly's "Spectroscopy" is modelled closely on the original plan. It has, however, been reset in a new format with a larger page, so that the number of pages in the first volume of the new edition is about 10 per cent. less than in the corresponding half of the preceding edition. Since the earlier portions of the book are concerned mainly with prism and grating spectroscopes, they have not needed any drastic emendation as a result of the recent developments in the theory of spectroscopy; but attention may be directed to a useful table of standard wave-lengths, covering three pages of the new edition, and to the account that is given of recent work by McLennan and by Millikan on the extreme ultra-violet region of the spectrum.