

American (U.S.A.), Swedish, and Swiss; whilst ninety per cent. of the inventors are either American or British. If these figures may be taken as a rough index of the distribution of scientific and inventive genius, it would appear that although science has no fatherland (as Pasteur said), invention can make out a good claim for the English-speaking world.

*Complex Salts.* By Dr. William Thomas. (Manuals of Pure and Applied Chemistry.) Pp. xi+122. (London, Glasgow and Bombay: Blackie and Son, Ltd., 1924.) 10s. net.

DR. THOMAS'S book on "Complex Salts" is a small volume of about 120 pages, intended more especially for students reading for final and honours degrees. It differs from a recent book by Schwarz on "The Chemistry of the Inorganic Complex Compounds" (see NATURE, October 27, 1923, p. 617) in that it deals in a much more general manner with the problems of molecular asymmetry, optical activity, methods of resolution and rotatory dispersion of optically-active complex salts. On these subjects Dr. Thomas has himself done important original work.

A novel and extremely valuable feature of the text is a chapter on the "Preparation and Resolution of Inorganic Complex Salts," including two examples of resolution, one involving the use of an active acid, and the other the use of an active base. This chapter should be of great value in enabling an honours student, or a young research worker, to secure experience in the manipulation of this important group of compounds. The book is presented in an attractive form, but the price appears to the reviewer to be rather high in view of the small size of the volume, although the price per page is appreciably less than that charged for the English translation of Schwarz's book.

The equilibrium-diagram which represents the case in which a racemate is formed when the temperature is raised, instead of (as in the case of sodium ammonium tartrate) when the temperature is lowered, appears to have been omitted, since Fig. 3, p. 60, represents the unsymmetrical diagram for a double salt which decomposes above a transition-point. It is not immediately obvious from the text what has gone wrong, and a student who encountered this error without knowing the correct form of the diagram might be puzzled for a long time before finding the correct interpretation.

*The High Grass Trail: being the Difficulties and Diversions of Two; Trekking, and Shooting for Sustenance in dense Bush across British Central Africa.* By Frank Savile. Pp. 255+10 plates. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1924.) 15s. net.

THIS is a day-to-day account, written in an easy and pleasant style, of a shooting trip, undertaken in the high grass season, to Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia. As no map has been provided, and most of the places mentioned are not marked on the ordinary map one has at hand, it is not easy to follow, except in a general way, where the author really did go.

This part of the world seems to be a veritable sportsman's paradise, both as regards small and big game. There was something to shoot almost every day. The natives are extremely friendly and willing to assist in

all operations of shikar. Their intense desire for meat makes them very ready helpers where big game is concerned. In a country where supplies are so scarce it is necessary to ply the gun in order to keep the larder replenished, and provide food for an army of carriers. Some game, however, is not exactly up to the white man's standard. Of zebra meat the author remarks: "It is dark, unwholesome red, greasy and revolting. I have tried the brains and tongue, which are passable, but so far, to Allah be praise, have never had to set my cheap German teeth the task of masticating its steaks or cutlets," but "the ordinary nig. loves it."

None of the problems of the country are dealt with. It is purely a book for the sportsman, and any one contemplating a visit to British Central Africa for shikar purposes should certainly read it. It will give him a good idea of what to expect as well as a considerable amount of entertainment. H. L. C.

*Chambers's Encyclopædia: a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge.* New edition. Edited by Dr. David Patrick and William Geddie. Vol. 4: Dioptrics to Freistadt. Pp. iv+856. Vol. 5: Fréjus to Humboldtia. Pp. iv+840. (London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers, Ltd.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1924.) 20s. net each vol.

THE most recent volumes which have appeared of this handy encyclopædia carry the alphabet nearly to the end of the letter H. They are well supplied with finely produced coloured maps, of which the historical maps of Europe and the physical and geological maps of Great Britain are particularly useful. Most of the articles of the last edition have undergone revision, in some cases by the original writers, and references to recent events have been added. Other articles have been re-written. Many of them are models of summarised knowledge, and several on the more important subjects run to considerable length. Thus "electricity" covers twenty-six pages, with another eight pages on cognate subjects. "Eye" runs to twelve and "fishes" to seven pages. Cross-references enhance the value of the work, but do not occur so frequently as to impede quick reference.

*Elementary Experimental Statics for Schools.* Written by A. P. McMullen. Revised for the Press, with some additional Matter and a Preface, by E. W. E. Kempson. Pp. vii+315. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1924.) 8s. 6d.

IF the object in teaching a subject such as statics to schoolboys is not so much to give them anything in the nature of a logical training as to render them appreciative of the fundamental principles and convinced of their truth, no better system can be adopted, we believe, than the experimental method. Especially is this the case in the present age, when boys display a lively interest and knowledge of machines, and appear to have relatively little difficulty in grasping the idea of mechanical work. It is for this reason that the authors of the present book have developed their subject in the order work, moments, triangle of forces, dealing in their appropriate places with friction, centres of gravity, equilibrium and stability. The result is that they have produced a book which must be of real value to all teachers of the subject. The illustrations are copious and instructive.