

Isis: International Review devoted to the History of Science and Civilisation; Official Organ of the History of Science Society. No. 21, Vol. VII (i.), 1925. Pp. 168. (Soc. Anon. M. Weissenbruch, 49 rue du Poinçon, Bruxelles.) Annual subscription, 26s.

ALTHOUGH *Isis* has become the official organ of the recently founded History of Science Society, it is happily still edited by Dr. George Sarton, its originator. The present number maintains the high standard which has been set by its forerunners, and the width of its appeal may be judged from the fact that it includes contributions from Essen, Rome, Madison, Belgrade, Amherst, and Montpellier.

Two articles of special interest are those by Prof. A. J. Hopkins on "A modern theory of alchemy," and Prof. Émile Turrière on the history of glass-making in western and central Europe from the Middle Ages to the end of the eighteenth century. Prof. Hopkins's theme is that the alchemists, far from failing in their quest, were successful, since their conception of "gold" was very different from ours. "The reason why we cannot follow the alchemistic theory or look upon those conceptions with sympathy is that the alchemist, like the artist, was stressing the changeable Aristotelian qualities where we stress weight and fixed qualities. . . . The alchemist fitted theory to practice and succeeded far beyond the realm of probability. According to his definition of 'gold' transmutation was effected. The alchemist obtained what he wanted." Although this theory of alchemy is not so novel as Prof. Hopkins appears to imagine, it has never received proper consideration. Yet it obviously explains much that is obscure, and Prof. Hopkins is to be congratulated upon having set it forth so clearly and logically.

Narcissus: an Anatomy of Clothes. By Gerald Heard. (To-day and To-morrow Series.) Pp. 156. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1924.) 2s. 6d. net.

THREE mottoes face the table of contents of this book, two from "Sartor Resartus" and one from Michael Angelo. The analogies they draw between life and clothes, the body, and architecture and its products, are worked out in detail. The author takes the line that psychology having resolved to treat nothing in its province as insignificant, clothing, now regarded as unimportant, may be assumed to be of racial significance, as a phase of the evolution which started on new lines when man emerged. Mr. Heard regards both clothes and architecture as parallel manifestations of an evolutionary force, tracing them from the beginning of weaving and the use of woven wattle for walls in the neolithic age, through Egypt, Mesopotamia, Crete, the classical period and historical times, down to the ferro-concrete building of to-day and modern costume, where development apparently has ceased. Fanciful though the analogy may seem, it is perhaps not extravagant to assume that racial character manifesting itself in two media so entirely different may still exhibit a certain convergence in style so far as conditions allow. After a certain stage, however, the standardising, more or less, of all modern communities is unlikely to offer much play for racial individuality, however either clothing or architecture may develop.

Tales from Nature's Wonderlands. By Dr. William T. Hornaday. Pp. xii + 235 + 24 plates. (New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924.) 12s. 6d. net.

FORTUNATE indeed are the children who can claim the author of this book as grandfather and exact from him, as a grandchild's privilege, the charming stories here published. The author has covered a wide range of subjects, from the origins of the American fauna to life in the deep sea, from the American mammoths to the lung fishes of Australia, from giant monster reptiles of Hell Creek to the penguins of the Antarctic Continent, from the forests and jungles of India and Borneo to the mountain crags of the Canadian Rockies and the ice-bound Polar Seas. In all he is equally happy, interesting and vivid, telling his story in simple compelling language well calculated to stir the imagination of children. It was a happy thought to publish these stories from Nature's book, so simple and so scientifically accurate, and we would wish, with Dr. Hornaday, that all our young people should become acquainted with them. The photographic illustrations are good, and materially help towards a proper understanding of the text.

Chambers's Encyclopædia: a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge. New edition. Edited by Dr. David Patrick and William Geddie. Vol. 6: Hume to Manche. Pp. iv + 872. (London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers, Ltd.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1925.) 20s. net.

THE latest volume of this convenient encyclopædia maintains the high standard of the work. The articles have been revised or re-written, and many new articles have been added. References to books published within the last few months are not infrequently included. There is a liberal allowance of excellent coloured maps, besides a number of smaller black and white maps, and many illustrations and diagrams. The encyclopædia is to be completed in ten volumes.

Outlines of a Philosophy of Art. By R. G. Collingwood. (The World's Manuals.) Pp. 104. (London: Oxford University Press, 1925.) 2s. 6d. net.

IF this manual has a fault, it is not that it is ill-done but that it is done too well. The author has instilled into his account of art a complete philosophy of life. Perhaps it was impossible to separate the two, but it demands of the reader a more than usual concentration of his attention. On the other hand, any one who wants a clear and concise account of Croce's æsthetic doctrine will find it admirably presented in the first chapter.

Traité de psychologie. Par Prof. Georges Dumas. Tome 2. Pp. 1173. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1924.) 60 francs.

THIS is M. Dumas' second volume of an extensive survey of recent work in psychology. Though named a treatise, it is in effect an encyclopædia. It is a collaboration of the leading French psychologists, each of whom has been invited to write a dissertation on the special subject matter of his own research. It is a valuable work of reference, with a detailed bibliography attached to each section.