

copies of it have been sold since the first impression was made in 1917.

The book is excellent so far as it goes. It is obviously not intended for the linguistic expert, the professional translator, or for other serious students of German, but for the ordinary run of chemists, who to-day know little French and less German, it is remarkably good, being exactly what they require. With the aid of this small dictionary, such a chemist will be able to "make out" the meaning of almost any passage in a German chemical work; he will not, however, always be able to render it into precise and good English, because he will not always find the exact English equivalents of the German compound words he encounters. As a rule, such words are easy to understand, but alas! they are also easy to mistranslate; and they occur frequently in such branches as metallurgy, spectroscopy, atomic structure, economic and engineering chemistry. We hope, therefore, that when the work is revised, it will be found possible to include exact renderings of many more German compound words, so that we may be spared from errors like that made by the Frenchman who, when endeavouring to translate "hemisphere," looked up "hemi" and "sphere," and then, uniting the French equivalents in unholy wedlock, wrote down the word—*demi-monde*!

*Electrical Circuits and Machinery.* By Prof. John H. Morecroft and Prof. Frederick W. Hehre. Vol. 2: Alternating Currents. Pp. xi+444. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1924.) 20s. net.

THIS is the second of three volumes intended for the use of students in engineering colleges. The first was on continuous currents (now generally called in Great Britain direct currents). The final volume will describe "experiments." We think the authors have discussed their subject in a way which will be appreciated by the average student, who has generally a very limited time at his disposal. Although it is not sufficiently thorough to satisfy the consulting engineer, yet wherever possible without dragging in advanced mathematics, proofs are given. The art of the electrical engineer is ever advancing. Both the mercury arc and the thermionic valve rectifiers are included. Sub-stations with all their apparatus in the open air (outdoor sub-stations) are described. We notice that in the United States every large electrical company has an oscillograph, generally mounted on a truck, so that it can easily be transported to any point of the supply network.

We are glad that the authors insist that students must know the theory of the instruments they use. In too many cases students consider an ammeter, for example, as a piece of apparatus having two terminals, a pointer and a scale, and know little or nothing of what is happening inside. In alternating current machinery armature reaction plays the leading part, and due stress is laid on this. Particular attention is very properly devoted to the current and voltage relations of polyphase networks. Too many students are content simply to memorise the necessary formulæ without taking the trouble to understand their proofs. This slackness on their part will probably give them much trouble in the future, and they will never gain that confidence which is requisite for success.

NO. 2915, VOL. 116]

*The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma.* Edited by Sir Arthur E. Shipley; assisted by Dr. Hugh Scott. Coleoptera. Clavicornia. Erotylidae, Languriidae and Endomychidae. By G. J. Arrow. Pp. xvi+416. (London: Taylor and Francis, 1925.) 30s.

THIS volume, which is the third contributed by Mr. G. J. Arrow to the "Fauna of British India" series, deals with three very closely related families of clavicorn Coleoptera, namely, the Erotylidae, Languriidae, and Endomychidae. They are all tropical groups that are but poorly represented in temperate regions. The Erotylidae recorded from the Indian fauna number 129 species, and Mr. Arrow has established the new sub-family Euxestinæ for four exceptional genera which possess a rounded, solid club to the antenna. The Languriidae, with 110 Indian species, are not usually regarded as a separate family and most authorities place them among the Erotylidae. Mr. Arrow, however, considers them sufficiently distinct to merit family rank, but their affinities are so intermingled with the Erotylidae, Endomychidae, and Cryptophagidae that their taxonomic status is largely a matter of individual opinion. Unlike the Erotylidae and Endomychidae, the Languriidae feed as larvæ in stems and the imagines are very characteristically elongated. The third family—the Endomychidae—includes 120 recorded Indian species included in three subfamilies.

It may be mentioned that in two features the present volume differs from its predecessors. First, there is a folding map of India and Ceylon, and secondly, there is an index of plant names. Both innovations add to the convenience of the users of the book. The illustrations include a chromolithographic plate and 75 excellent text-figures.

The whole work is well up to the standard of the previous volumes on Coleoptera, and Mr. Arrow is fortunate in being able to examine the original type-specimens in a large proportion of the species, a feature which gives additional value to his identifications.

A. D. I.

*Christian Missions and Oriental Civilizations: a Study in Culture Contact. The Reactions of Non-Christian Peoples to Protestant Missions from the Standpoint of Individual and Group Behaviour: Outline, Materials, Problems, and Tentative Interpretations.* By Dr. Maurice T. Price. Pp. xxvi+578. (Shanghai: Edward Evans and Sons, Ltd.; London: G. E. Stechert and Co., 1924.) 16s.

THIS book makes a wide appeal. It is of interest to those who are actively concerned with the work of Christian missions, to anthropologists, to psychologists, and sociologists, and to those who have to deal with the practical problems of administration. It approaches the work of the missionary from a novel point of view. It does not deal with spiritual, theological, or metaphysical interpretations as such; but it examines the reactions of non-Christian peoples to the Christian Church's attempt to convert them—both the initial and temporary responses and those which are more permanent. Missionary effort during the last one hundred years is surveyed from this point of view.

For the first time missionary effort has been studied as a natural phenomenon and as a social psychological