

As may be surmised from these observations, the book is a comprehensive one. To fortify his thesis the author gives stimulating reviews and criticisms of the work of C. Lange and William James, of McDougall, Freud, Janet, and Morton Prince, in so far as they have concerned themselves with emotions. He includes full studies of states of anxiety, mania, stupor, depression, and perplexity, illustrated by detailed notes of some seventy cases. The thesis in question is, that emotion, both as regards its expression and its feeling-tone (or affect), is the product of mental processes occurring co-consciously, co-conscious being the term applied to unconscious mental processes in a state of activity.

The methods and reasoning by which this conclusion is arrived at cannot be compressed into a short notice, but accompanying Dr. MacCurdy along his psychological and psychiatric highways and byways is an interesting journey. On page 571 he states that "a particular grouping of words will excite a stylist pleasantly or unpleasantly." Some of the "Americanisms" in "The Psychology of Emotions" may produce the latter effect on the English stylist, but they do not detract from the value of the work as a whole.

*The History of the English Novel. The Age of Romance: from the Beginnings to the Renaissance.* By Dr. Ernest A. Baker. Pp. 336. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1924.) 16s. net.

DR. BAKER takes a broader view of the origins of the English novel than is customary. He links it up not only with prose fiction of the Middle Ages, but brings it into relation with much of the material with which the student of the folk-lore and cultural history of Great Britain has to deal in the form of popular tales, legends and romances. His book, therefore, appeals to a wider public than that which is interested only in literary history. He passes beyond early prose fiction in Great Britain, touching upon its complement in France and Brittany, and goes back to early Greece, the connexion being traced through Euhemerus, the paraphrasts of Homer, and the later Greek and Latin writers of romance. To those who hold the view that the study of the folk-tale in Europe is largely a matter of literary history, Dr. Baker's investigation of sources and, perhaps in particular, of Anglo-Saxon fiction, will prove suggestive. In dealing with the Arthurian cycle, he covers ground which has been made familiar by the work of Miss Jessie Weston, Dr. Oskar Sumner, and, above all, the late Sir John Rhys; but his later chapters, dealing with other or later romances and with popular tales and *fabliaux* such as appear in the "Gesta Romanorum" and other collections, form a useful guide in a maze much of which, though not untrodden, is as yet inadequately explored. Dr. Baker's work shows wide reading and sound scholarship.

*The Fats.* By Prof. J. B. Leathes and Prof. H. S. Raper. (Monographs on Biochemistry.) Second edition. Pp. vii + 242. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1925.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE appearance of the second edition of this monograph, after a lapse of fifteen years, will be welcomed by all those interested in the subject. The author of the first edition, Prof. J. B. Leathes, has collaborated with Prof. H. S. Raper in the re-editing and re-writing of the present volume. The first three chapters are devoted

to the chemical and physical properties of the fats, with methods for their extraction and estimation. The remaining seven, a lengthy expansion of only a short section in the first edition, deal with their physiology and give an up-to-date and reasoned account of the parts played by them in both plant and animal tissues. The stages in their digestion, synthesis, and utilisation are fully described as far as present knowledge permits; the transport of fat in the blood is considered in detail, and a reasoned criticism of Bloor's deductions from his experimental results put forward. The last chapter deals with the rôle played by fats, apart from their function as a source of energy, in the life of the cell; they form an integral part of the structure of protoplasm, and modern work already suggests possible ways in which their molecules may be arranged therein. The work is completed by a bibliography and index.

*Organic Medicaments and their Preparation.* By Ernest Fourneau. Authorised Translation by W. A. Silvester. Pp. x + 262. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1925.) 15s. net.

IT throws an interesting light on the working of the British educational system that although French is taught in practically every school above the elementary rank in England, it should still be thought necessary to issue English translations of French books. The French edition of M. Fourneau's book has already been reviewed in NATURE (July 15, 1922, p. 50), and the opinion there expressed that it "should find a place wherever organic chemistry is taught to advanced students" is heartily endorsed by the present writer.

Mr. Silvester has done his work well and the terseness, clarity, and precision of the original have not suffered in his handling of the text. He has taken the opportunity to add a short but well-selected bibliography, which will be useful to those unfamiliar with the subject, and notes are appended here and there throughout the text directing attention to recent developments. The French edition was issued in 1921, and it says much for M. Fourneau's skill in the selection of material that the translator has been able to bring the English edition up-to-date with so few additions of his own. T. A. H.

*Wales: an Economic Geography.* [By L. B. Cundall and T. Landman. Pp. x + 364. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1925.) 6s.

THE authors have taken pains to collect and arrange their material for this geography of Wales, the first of its kind to be published. They have interpreted their subject liberally and succeeded in producing a full and accurate volume, which has the further advantage of being interesting and readable. Several of the chapters, such as those on coal and non-ferrous metals, take a wide survey of the whole subject, and might well be read by those to whom the details of Welsh geography are of minor importance. A further advantage of the book is that the historical side of industrial activity is kept well in view, so that a very clear picture is gained of the evolution of Welsh industries and towns. Statistical matter is freely used, and there are even appendices giving the trade terms used in the coal and other industries. The index is full, but might be revised in a later edition.