Baltimore, shows that the justice of Sedgwick's claim that "the sanitarian needs a proper working theory" has been well illustrated in the history of preventive medicine, especially in the work of Fracastorius, Sydenham, Jenner, Sir George Baker, James Lind, Sir John Simon, and Pasteur. It is pointed out that inadequate and even erroneous theories which bear some relation to the state of contemporary knowledge may serve a useful purpose, as was exemplified by the doctrine of the so-called "filth theory" of the generation of epidemic diseases, especially typhus, typhoid, and dysentery, inasmuch as the acceptance of this theory led to a campaign for the supply of pure water, the proper disposal of sewage, the prevention of water pollution, the removal of nuisances, cleanliness of the streets, inspection of food, healthfulness of dwellings, ventilation, and proper disposal of the dead.

In conclusion, Dr. Welch deplores the lack of active participation on the part of the general medical profession in public health activities, the fault being partly due to encroachment on the field of the private practitioner and partly to a lack of sympathy and co-operation with health officials and with health programmes on the part of the practitioner.

General Zoölogy. By Prof. H. L. Wieman. (McGraw-Hill Publications in the Zoölogical Sciences.) Pp. ix+312. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1925.) 15*s.* net.

THIS book "is a rather condensed account of some of the outstanding facts and principles of zoology" prepared for use in conjunction with the author's course of practical teaching, and it is evident that a clear understanding of many of the subjects must depend largely on the work on structure and on histology done in the laboratory. The first eighteen chapters of the book deal with adaptation, the various systems of organs, metabolism, cell division, gametogenesis, ontogenesis, evolution and heredity, and a concluding chapter gives a "general survey of the animal kingdom" in fifty pages. The best chapters, in our opinion, are those on evolution and heredity; many of the other subjects are treated so briefly as to be largely ineffective, *e.g.* reproduction—agamic, hermaphroditic and bisexual—intrauterine development and certain general considerations are traversed in eight pages, more than two of which are occupied by illustrations. The author should have eliminated a number of loose statements, *e.g.* that the ilium of the frog "extends dorsally to the scapula," that the setæ of earthworms are arranged in clusters, and should revise his usage of the term nephridium. The illustrations are carefully chosen and well reproduced.

Manufacture, Design, and Laboratory Work. Compiled and collated by D. V. Onslow. (Electrical Engineers' Data Books, Vol. 2.) Pp. xvi+276+cxcv+9. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd.; Radio Press, Ltd., 1925.) 15*s.* net.

ENGINEERING data of the manufacture and design of electrical machinery and also descriptions of tests which are useful in laboratories and testing rooms are given in this work. The book opens by discussing the electric strength of insulating materials, and we gather that electric strength has something to do with "average breakdown voltage." The impression left on the reader, however, is that possibly there is no such thing as "electric strength" after all. The scientific man will be appalled at the many trade names of insulating materials. The methods of testing devised by members of the various research committees have strictly practical ends in view, and a large "tolerance" has to be allowed for the results. We have a difficulty in understanding what is meant by saying that the power factor for clear micas is 0·003. The phrase "dielectric constant" is rather an unfortunate one, when we have to discuss how it varies with temperature, humidity, etc. In the appendix it is called specific inductive capacity. The type in which the mathematical tables is printed is difficult to read. In our opinion it is time that the so-called "international and B.O.T. units" were placed on the scrap-heap. The ampere, the volt, and the ohm have been determined with an accuracy far in excess of that required in commerce.

Abhandlungen zur Physiologie der Sinne aus dem physiologischen Institut zu Freiburg i. B. Herausgegeben von J. von Kries. Fünftes Heft. Pp. iv+120. (Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1925.) 4 gold marks.

IT is much to be regretted that in Great Britain there is a decay of interest in the physiology of the special senses. Among representative physiologists, there are extremely few who might be called special sense physiologists. The present volume bears witness, however, that this is not the case in Germany. The volume is a convenient fasciculus, the fifth of its kind, forming in reality a reprint of collected papers published from the school of von Kries in the *Zeitschrift für Sinnesphysiologie.* The papers describe congenital colour-blindness in one eye (J. von Kries), similarity of taste in mixed solutions (E. v. Skramlik), minimal luminosity in colour sense (E. Engelking and F. Poos), and the geometric representation of multiplicity of sensations (J. von Kries). Each contribution must be studied first-hand for its merits.

L'Hydrogène et les gaz nobles. Par Dr. J. J. Van Laar. Pp. ii+79. (Leyde: A. W. Sijthoff, n.d.) n.p.

THIS monograph is the first of a series on theoretical and practical chemistry to be issued in French or English under the auspices of the Société Chimique Néerlandaise. Devoted exclusively to consideration of numerical data relating to the physical properties of the gases specified in the title, it will be welcomed by all workers in this branch as a trustworthy, well-arranged, and reasonably up-to-date book of reference.

Exercises in Geometry. By V. Le Neve Foster. Part 1. Pp. viii+69. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1925.) 2*s.*

MR. FOSTER thinks it is not inconvenient to add to the number of riders given in the text-books. If he is right, it would be difficult to provide a better collection than this, which is intended to be used in Stage I. when the stress is laid upon the practical side of geometry.