

probable handedness. He has used it with interesting results with a large group of school children. The theory needs more evidence before it can be accepted, but it is decidedly suggestive and well worthy of future research.

W. J. G. S.

*Trattato di chimica generale ed applicata all' industria.* Per Prof. Dott. Ettore Molinari. Vol. 1: *Chimica inorganica*. Parte Seconda. Quinta edizione riveduta ed ampliata. Pp. viii+681-1351. (Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, 1925.) 45 lire.

THE publication of five editions of a treatise on chemistry of the magnitude of 'Molinari' within the space of twenty years furnishes irrefutable evidence of the cordiality with which the book has been received by Italian chemists. The present volume follows the same general lines as its predecessors and completes volume 1, dealing with inorganic chemistry. Although the bulk of this second part exhibits no great advance beyond that of the corresponding portion of the fourth edition, descriptions of most recent developments of value have been added. Moreover, a number of entirely new sections are included, the most noteworthy being those on the low-temperature carbonisation of coal, decolorising vegetable carbons, pulverised coal, titanium pigments, and the borax industry of Tuscany. The important subjects of electrolytic soda and cement are accorded even more detailed treatment than formerly.

In general, the statistical data which form such a marked feature of the book are brought up-to-date, but in many cases the prices of products are still qualified by the description 'pre-War.' The numerous figures are mostly well reproduced and the printing is good, the rather smaller type, of which considerable use is made—evidently with the object of reducing the proportions of the volume—being not at all irksome to read. The price is fixed at what in Great Britain and nowadays would be a ridiculously low amount, and any chemist with a knowledge of the Italian language would find the book a profitable investment.

T. H. P.

*The Professor on the Golf Links: some Sidelights on Golf from Modern Science.* By Charles W. Bailey. Pp. 91. (London: Silas Birch, Ltd., n.d.) 2s. 6d. net.

THIS book is by the same author as "The Brain and Golf," which was reviewed in these columns (August 23, 1924, p. 271). It consists of a light-hearted report of the casual conversations of some members of a golf club. The chief talker is known as 'The Professor,' whose topics range from the effect of jazz jumpers for men on their interest in colour and relation to women, to psychological types as reflected on the golf course and even in the owners' golf sticks as well. The author aims at linking golf with mental and physical science in order to interest the average golfer and lower his handicap. It is in lighter vein than the preceding volume, but contains much sound psychology embodied in anecdotal form. He describes golf as the safest safety-valve, because in it the unconscious gets an opportunity for expression in a way socially safe and personally satisfying. One would like to know the incidence of psychoneurosis in golfers: Are the irascible people who let off their irascibility on the links thereby rendered com-

paratively innocuous and able to bear with equanimity the stresses of ordinary life? The author has yet to give us a more subtle analysis of behaviour on the golf links in terms of modern psychology.

*Simen, its Heights and Abysses: a Record of Travel and Sport in Abyssinia, with some Account of the Sacred City of Aksum and the Ruins of Gondar.* By Major H. C. Maydon. Pp. 244+12 plates. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1925.) 16s. net.

IN setting out on the journey which is described in this book, Major Maydon and his companion, Capt. Blain, had as their objective the barrier of mountains which forms the north-western edge of the great Abyssinian plateau. A preliminary journey of reconnaissance in 1922-23 was followed by a second expedition in 1923-24 in quest of the Walia ibex (*Capra Walie*), the home of which is in Simen, although its existence, as the author says, "was a question of uncertainty." From Simen they went on to Addis Ababa and into the Arusi country in search of mountain inyala. Major Maydon's descriptions of the wonderful hill country of Abyssinia, slashed by precipitous ravines and abysses, conveys a vivid impression to the reader, which is enhanced by some excellent photographs; but he seems to have found, with reason, the natives less attractive than their country. The appendices, in addition to descriptions of the Walia ibex and the inyala, and their habits, give information relating to prices and outfit which will be useful to those who may be inspired by the author to follow in his footsteps.

*Practical Pharmacognosy.* By T. E. Wallis. Pp. x+115. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1925.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS excellent little book will be of great value to teachers and students requiring an elementary guide to laboratory work in pharmacognosy. The standing of the author, who is lecturer in botany to the Pharmaceutical Society, and the recommendation implied by the contribution of a foreword by Prof. Greenish, are sufficient guarantees of the accuracy of the text, which is arranged in a very clear and practical manner. The ground covered is necessarily familiar, but the chief value of the book lies in the fact that it is essentially a statement of the laboratory work in this subject given at Bloomsbury Square. Part 1 consists of schedules of instructions for the examination of the drugs, each schedule being accompanied by a most useful complement in the form of short notes. Part 2 comprises a description of forty-five medicinal plants and concludes with a scheme for the description of drugs. The book is abundantly illustrated, and special reference must be made to the many skilful line drawings prepared by the author and his wife.

*The Pocket Book of British Birds.* By Richard Kearton and Howard Bentham. Pp. ix+389. (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 6s. net.

MR. KEARTON and Mr. Bentham have produced a pocket guide to British birds. The letterpress consists of a condensed summary of the usual text-book information about each species. The very small reproductions of photographs seem unlikely to be so useful for purposes of identification as the authors suggest.