

*The Engineer and the Prevention of Malaria.* By Henry Home. Pp. x+176+14 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1926.) 13s. 6d. net.

THE object of this book, as mentioned by the author in the introductory note, is to help engineers engaged on anti-malarial works to obtain the necessary information without reference to numerous publications on public health, entomology, and parasitology which is otherwise essential. It is furthermore believed that medical officers will find material of value within its pages.

The book deals with the various engineering problems which so frequently arise in malaria prevention in a clear and concise manner. There are fourteen plates and numerous text figures which contribute to the value of the work. The first three chapters are devoted to the economic aspect of the disease, the malarial mosquito, and to anti-malarial schemes. The eight following chapters deal with the varied aspects of lowland drainage, hill drainage, details of construction, oiling, larvicides, vegetation, natural enemies, the question of housing, and possible biological methods of control.

There are four appendices, the first of which, by Lieut.-Colonel MacArthur, deals with mosquito netting from the point of view of the right determination of the apertures and the gauge of wire or the size of cotton thread used by the manufacturers; Dr. P. A. Buxton contributes the next two appendices dealing with applied entomology as regards anophelines and the house fly. The final appendix contains an account of the hydrogen-ion concentration of waters and methods of estimation.

The engineer and the sanitarian are, or at least should be, frequently associated in endeavours to combat disease, and this is especially the case in anti-malarial schemes. To formulate a successful campaign on sound practical lines demands a close co-operation between the two services. In this little book both should find much of common interest, and its study will undoubtedly tend to foster that spirit of co-operation with and sympathy in the work of the two which is essential in so many of the efforts directed to the control of disease.

G. E. F. STAMMERS.

*Rothamsted Experimental Station Library.* Catalogue of the Printed Books on Agriculture published between 1471 and 1840; with Notes on the Authors by Mary S. Aslin. Pp. 331+22 plates. (Harpenden, Herts: Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1926.) Paper, 10s.; cloth, 12s.

Nor the least notable feature of the Rothamsted Experimental Station is the library, containing as it does probably the most complete collection in existence of ancient and modern books (in all languages) on agriculture. The number of ancient books, in particular, is remarkable, including, it may be noted, copies of such treasures as Crescentius' "Liber ruralium commodorum," the first printed book on agriculture. Of this the library possesses a fine illuminated folio, bearing the insignia of Sigismund II. of Poland, and a unique early edition of Fitzherbert (*circa* 1523).

As the director, Sir John Russell, points out, the dates 1471 and 1840 are both significant in relation to the history of agriculture; the first marks the appearance of Crescentius, and the latter the definite break with empiricism which followed the foundation of the

Rothamsted Station by Lawes. The catalogue, therefore (relating to 1500 books published between these dates), may be said to record the empirical stage of agriculture, and it speaks much for the enterprise and, may we add, the culture of the governors of Rothamsted and their director, that such a collection—largely of bibliographic interest—should have been added to the institution. Their interests in the art, which it is their mission to inspire with science, are conceivably more limited, but, as the director, in the words of Comte, aptly says: "No idea can be properly understood apart from its history."

*Volumetric Iodate Methods.* By Dr. George S. Jamieson. (New York: The Chemical Catalog Co., Inc., 1926.) 2 dollars.

THE "iodate method," first proposed by L. W. Andrews in 1903, depends on the formation of iodine monochloride, and the disappearance of the iodine colour imparted to an immiscible solvent such as chloroform or carbon tetrachloride. Since the last traces of free iodine are collected in a small volume of immiscible solvent, the sharpness of the end-point is remarkable; and when a titration has been completed, there is no return of the iodine-colour even after keeping the solutions for a day. These factors, together with the great stability of the solutions of potassium iodate and the absence of interference by many kinds of organic matter, make the use of this method very advantageous in many forms of analysis. The author has therefore put together a description of a dozen different determinations (*e.g.* of Sb, Cu, Hg, Mo, Sn, Mn, N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, PbO<sub>2</sub>, etc.) in which the method can be employed with advantage. He has further increased the value of the book by giving details of the application of the method to the analysis of arsenic and copper in insecticides, of antimony, copper and tin in alloys, etc. The book should be of considerable value in giving publicity to a new and valuable method of analysis, as well as in providing precise directions for applying it.

*Wellenlangenmessungen des Lichtes im sichtbaren und unsichtbaren Spektralbereich.* Von Prof. Dr. Paul Eversheim. (Sammlung Vieweg, Heft 82.) Pp. v+111. (Braunschweig: Friedr. Vieweg und Sohn A.-G., 1926.) 7 gold marks.

THE object of this book is to give a concise survey of the present state of our knowledge concerning the exact determination of standard wave-lengths. The author first gives a short general description of early measurements, together with Rowland's normal system, and refers to the necessity for its revision. He then deals with the more recent methods of determination, briefly referring to Millikan's work, and considering in detail the measurements of Benoît, Fabry and Perot. Succeeding chapters discuss the establishment of international standard wave-lengths, and many tables of standard lines in the visible region are given, attention being paid to the results of individual workers in order to indicate the accuracy of the standard data.

The ultra-violet and infra-red portions of the spectrum are treated in separate sections, due reference being made to the work of Lyman and Millikan. In the final chapter on X-rays, the work of the Braggs, of