

which would record, in a concise form, and in language easily understood by the non-scientific, but practical, man all the results of scientific work carried out, not only in Britain, but in other parts of the world, so far as it has bearing on agricultural practice at home." This preface is signed "Devonshire, Chairman Research Committee, Royal Agricultural Society of England." There follow five compilations by recognised authorities on each subject, dealing specially with research 'results' in veterinary medicine, soils and manures, animal nutrition, dairy husbandry, agricultural economics, and agricultural engineering.

No one can quarrel with the merits of the work; each section will certainly prove of interest to research workers in each particular field. But doubts may be expressed as to its intelligibility to the "non-scientific but practical man" (the italics are ours—the antithesis is, we hope, unintentional). Much of the language used implies some knowledge, not only of strictly scientific terms (such as metabolism), but also of ideas expressed in an ordinary language (e.g. energy) with which the 'practical' man is not familiar. Be that as it may, the names at the head of each section are a sufficient guarantee that the information given is trustworthy and that the praiseworthy objects of the leading agricultural society in Great Britain have been worthily achieved.

*A Road to Fairyland.* By Erica Fay. Pp. vii + 219. (London and New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., 1926.) 5s. net.

"A ROAD TO FAIRYLAND" is dedicated to "all children between the ages of seven and seventy," and the author has indeed provided a variety in her twelve stories in which something should please her clientèle at every stage within these limits of their years. Here and there we catch an echo of the folk tale; but the author has a subtle power of invention and a felicity of phrasing, as well as a humour, now delicate, now broad, which have carried her well on the way to success in the bold and risky undertaking of writing fairy tales. One feature in these stories may be held by some to be open to question. In most of them a moral is to be discerned, and sometimes it is explicitly stated in the good old-fashioned way at the end. The moral has long been condemned; but the healthy normal child does usually love a moral. It is infancy's equivalent to the triumph of virtue in the melodrama of days gone by. Of individual stories, the one with which the book opens, "The Princess," is perhaps the best. It exhibits a knowledge of human nature and a philosophy which makes the best of things that lift it to a higher plane. Palæontologists and metaphysicians with a sense of humour—if there are such—will appreciate the picture of a sabre-toothed tiger in Kent's Cavern being helped to his human dinner by a stalactite, which in so doing sacrifices its devotion to the absolute to gratify a desire for revenge on the human race. It will be seen that the author is something of a philosopher in the style of Andersen—no mean model.

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*Lime in Agriculture.* 1: in *Plant Nutrition*, 2: in *Animal Nutrition*; a *Handbook for Practical Farmers, Students, and Others.* By Frank Ewart Corrie. Pp. xi + 100. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1926.) 3s. 6d. net.

LIME deficiency is generally recognised as one of the main factors causing poor crop yields, but unfortunately in too many cases little or no attempt is made to remedy matters. This is partly due to a failure to realise the considerable improvement that is likely to be made by a judicious lime application, and partly to a lack of knowledge as to the best and most economical materials to use. The author has endeavoured to outline the problem in the simplest manner, emphasising the need for lime in both plant and animal nutrition, and supporting his remarks by reference to the results of modern research work. A very useful feature is a descriptive list of the various forms in which lime may be applied, as the expenses of carriage usually compel the use of the nearest source of supply. The benefits that crops derive from adequate lime are given, but no mention is made of the effect of chalk on heavy land in reducing the resistance offered to the passage of cultivation implements. On the animal side, the nutritive requirements of various classes of stock for lime are considered, together with the sources of supply, as milk, hay, and green fodders, meat and bone meals and fish meals.

An appendix gives a series of illustrative analyses, including some of soils deficient in lime, various types of lime that may be used, lime deficiencies in rations, and the lime and phosphatic acid contents of foods.

*Practical Photo-Micrography.* By J. E. Barnard and Frank V. Welch. Second edition. Pp. xii + 316. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1925.) 18s. net.

FOURTEEN years have elapsed since the first edition of this book was published, but it is noteworthy, as the authors point out, that photo-micrography itself has made little advance during this period, though there have naturally been various modifications in the apparatus employed. The reason for this standstill is that microscopy has not advanced, for the best microscopes and microscopic objectives of twenty or more years ago are equal to any produced to-day.

After a brief summary on the microscope and its optical parts, illumination is dealt with. It seems scarcely necessary now to enter into such full detail respecting calcium carbide as is done, and no mention is made of paraffin and petrol mantle lamps, which in country districts may be of some service and are useful for printing on 'gas-light' papers in the absence of gas and electric light. The chapters on cameras, the use and manipulation of the microscope, colour screens and exposure, and photographic processes, are excellent, and the authors are able to incorporate many useful 'tips,' the result of their experience. Finally, the illustrations are adequate and clear, and a series of beautiful plates show what may be done by means of photo-micrography.