

during the War period. America's need is to push the domestic production of potash to such a point as to secure the possibility of the production of full home supplies in case of war.

Kelp is a valuable asset, as iodine and potash can be obtained as by-products from the manufacture of kelpchar, a very active decolorising carbon. Other sources of supply which can be exploited successfully are surface lakes, subterranean deposits, silicates, industrial wastes (both organic and inorganic), and cement-mill flue dust, the last being a very important potential source. Ninety per cent. of the potash entering American markets goes to agriculture, but the ten per cent. is of equal importance in that it is required for many industries. The feasibility of the recovery of sufficient potash from available home resources has been demonstrated, and the immediate problem is that of perfecting the methods employed and rendering the recovery process an economic proposition.

*Mono-Alu Folklore (Bougainville Strait, Western Solomon Islands)*. By G. C. Wheeler. Thesis approved for the Degree of Doctor of Science (Economics) in the University of London. Pp. xv + 396. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1926.) 21s. net.

THE collection of tales and song-texts given in this volume was made during a stay of ten months in Alu and Mono, Bougainville Strait, in 1908-9. The author has given the texts as taken down from the dictation of a Mono-Alu man, son of a late chief, and the Mono text is given in all but eight cases. Although traces of the old Alu speech are to be found in the tales, that language has practically disappeared and Mono has taken its place, owing to the conquest of Alu by the Mono people some sixty years ago. In these islands, therefore, Mono-Alu-Faura now form a unit area. The tales as presented by Dr. Wheeler provide much valuable material for linguistic study, but more important in some respects is the light they throw on the culture of the people. The tales, indeed, enshrine much that has already passed away. Dr. Wheeler himself points out, for example, that the incident of wrapping blood in a leaf which occurs in one of the most interesting and bizarre of the stories, in the actual practice is a feature of a rite analogous to the motive. In another story bones renew their life, a motive which stands in relation to the burning rites for a dead body in the Mono area. Similar analogies and references could be quoted time after time. Dr. Wheeler's scholarly volume will well repay careful study.

*The Aspergilli*. By Charles Thom and Margaret B. Church. Photomicrographs by G. L. Keenan. Pp. ix + 272 + 4 plates. (Baltimore, Md.: Williams and Wilkins Co.; London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1926.) 22s. 6d. net.

WHILE this work is primarily and confessedly taxonomic, the authors have brought together most of the scattered information on the *Aspergilli*, and have given a comprehensive survey of the

genus from a few different points of view. Part I. deals with such different aspects as culture methods, morphology, and special physiology of these forms. A very interesting chapter is devoted to enzymatic activities, and their economic significance in the production of acids, *sake*, *taka* diastase, etc., while their pathogenic importance in reference to man, birds, and insects is treated in another.

Part 2 of the book is devoted to a taxonomic revision of the whole genus based on the examination of large numbers of forms from natural substrates, and the 350 strains which the authors have grown in pure cultures in their own laboratory. While the sixty-six odd accepted species of *Aspergilli* have been considerably multiplied, an attempt has been made by the authors to indicate real relationships in the presentation of their various groups, and the diagnostic scheme in their keys has been so arranged as to bring together closely allied forms. A fairly exhaustive bibliography is appended to the work, which forms a welcome addition to current mycological literature.

*Maori Symbolism: being an Account of the Origin, Migration, and Culture of the New Zealand Maori, as recorded in certain Sacred Legends*. Report made by Ettie A. Rout, from the evidence of Hohepa Te Rake (an Arawa Noble). Pp. xxxii + 322 + 32 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 21s. net.

IN this book Mrs. Rout reports the sacred lore of the Maori as faithfully transmitted to her by a Maori noble, Hohepa Te Rake, and solemn declarations to that effect by both participants in the production form part of the contents. It is, however, difficult to accept these statements at their face value, as the lore is not given in its original form, but as interpreted in the light of a theory of the origin and migrations of the Maori, based upon identifications which trace them back to Assyria and suggest identity of culture in Egypt, America, and elsewhere. The illustrations, which are exceptionally well reproduced and in another context would be both interesting and suggestive, have been carefully selected with this end in view. In spite of this defect the book does, however, contain a very full account of the customs and practices of the Maori which conduced to sound sanitation, personal cleanliness, and good health.

*Practical Colloid Chemistry*. By Prof. Wolfgang Ostwald, with the Collaboration of Dr. P. Wolski and Dr. A. Kuhn. Translated by Dr. I. Newton Kugelmass and Dr. Theodore K. Cleveland. Pp. xvi + 191. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS laboratory manual has been well known to workers in colloid chemistry since the first German edition appeared in 1920, and in the variety and completeness of the course provided it reflects the versatility and enthusiasm of the chief author. He has, however, been badly served by his translators, whose frequent misrepresentations need to be seen to be believed, and to be compared with the German to be understood. P. C. L. T.