

*The Steam-Engine and other Heat-Engines.* By Sir J. Alfred Ewing. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. viii+662. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1926.) 25s. net.

THIS well-known work, which on its first appearance in 1894 set up a new-standard of excellence in the writing of text-books on this subject, now appears as a fourth edition extensively revised and enlarged. In its pages students can gain a very good idea of the history of the development of heat-engines, while the basic thermodynamic theory is expressed with a notable clarity, simplicity, and scientific accuracy.

In new editions of standard text-books the additions are always of especial interest, and we now find here an enlarged section on the theory and practice relating to steam turbines, which in about a hundred pages gives an admirable survey of the subject. It is perhaps not possible now to give so connected an account of the internal combustion engine, which has become a serious rival to the steam turbine for the propulsion of ships. The battle is still being waged, but whatever may be the issue, applied science gains by the researches of Callendar and others on the properties of steam at great pressures and high superheats, and by the various investigations on the properties of the explosive charge in the cylinders of internal combustion engines, described in this volume. Many other subjects, arising from the great sizes of the engines now being designed and built, are dealt with; much research on these subjects has been carried out, and is still proceeding, in order to provide successfully for motive power in units of unprecedented size.

Students will be especially grateful for a text-book which covers so wide a range and brings them up to the boundary of existing knowledge.

E. G. C.

*Floræ Siamensis Enumeratio: a List of the Plants known from Siam, with Records of their Occurrence.* By Prof. W. G. Craib. (Published under the Auspices of the Siam Society.) Vol. I, Parts 1 and 2: *Ranunculaceæ* to *Anacardiaceæ*. Pp. 1-197 and 198-358. (Bangkok: Bangkok Times Press, Ltd.; London: Luzac and Co., 1925 and 1926.) 7 Tcs.; 12s. 10d. each.

A USEFUL compilation, of which the first two parts have appeared, is in course of publication. It is a catalogue of all plants collected in Siam, with a full record of collectors' specimens, references to literature and synonymy, together with occasional notes by the author, who has critically examined, wherever possible, the type specimens and other specimens quoted. The local Siamese and Malay names are given. No new species are recorded, though very many of those listed have been described by the author himself in the *Kew Bulletin* from material supplied by recent collectors, chiefly Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, Mrs. D. J. Collins, and members of the Siam Forest Service.

The geographical situation of Siam lends special importance to its flora, for it is a focus for intrusive plants from south-west China, Burma, and the

Malay Peninsula. Possibly also (with the adjacent countries which go to make up Indo-China) it has been a centre from which certain species have been disseminated. It must, therefore, have a considerable bearing on the floristic relationship of those different regions. C. FISCHER.

*Crime and Custom in Savage Society.* By Dr. Bronislaw Malinowski. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. xii+132+6 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., Inc., 1926.) 5s. net.

PART of this stimulating essay on primitive jurisprudence was delivered by Dr. Malinowski as a lecture at the Royal Institution and published in extended form in our columns (*NATURE*, Feb. 6, 1926, Supplement, p. 9). It is scarcely necessary, therefore, to do more than direct attention to its publication in book form, and to say that in the added matter the author has amplified his main contention that much of the general theory of the older school of anthropology fails to stand the test to which it can be submitted by the field-worker. In the present instance, in the field of primitive jurisprudence, Dr. Malinowski, with his acutely critical power of analysis, is able to show from his experience among the Trobrianders that the idea of group dominance is inadequate as a sanction of law and order in primitive society.

*The Garden Interests of Madeira.* By Dr. M. C. Grabham. Pp. xii+100+3 plates. (London: Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Ltd., 1926.) 5s.

DR. GRABHAM has written an interesting and useful little book on the plants found in gardens and growing wild in Madeira, which should be of value to visitors to this favoured island. In the second part the plants are discussed under their respective families and useful notes are given about them. The first part contains a good deal of miscellaneous information about the plants and their times of flowering, the various fruits and vegetables to be met with at different seasons, and other matters of interest to the visitor. This part fittingly contains at the end a portrait of the venerable and versatile author bearing the legend, "Archangelicus madeirensis!"

*The Way of the Wild.* By H. R. Sass. Pp. vii+321. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1926.) 7s. 6d. net.

A SERIES of ten animal stories dealing with the adventures of a wide range of North American creatures, from owls and eagles to racoons, pumas, and bison. The stories are linked with the experiences of white hunters and Indians; they are well written, full of interest and excitement, and the author has avoided the danger of swamping the soundness of his natural history by a too vivid imagination. The value of the book lies in the likelihood that it may arouse in many who are not naturalists an appreciation of and sympathy with the lives of wild creatures, and naturalist and non-naturalist will enjoy the stories.