

and the tallow tree (*Sapium seliferum*), in addition to the better known tea, cotton—said to have been introduced into China from Khotan in the eleventh century—mulberry trees and other crops traditionally associated with the country. The animals are described at length, and finally the author collects some materials for a summary of the economic position of the Chinese farmer, an interesting attempt which one would like to see followed up.

As the only recent book on the subject, the volume would in any event be of interest to the agricultural expert. Added to this are its intrinsic merits; the mass of information, numerous illustrations by photographs and diagrams, and, where they can be obtained, figures of yields or analytical data. To those interested in eastern agriculture it will prove very valuable.

E. J. RUSSELL.

### The Textile Industry.

*Textile Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing and Finishing Machinery.* By A. J. Hall. Pp. 320. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1926.) 50s. net.

THIS book is a very welcome addition to the literature of British textile industries. It brings together, in a complete form, a comprehensive summary of the best modern methods of carrying out the several important processes stated in the title of the book. Hitherto these processes have only received a cursory treatment and then simply as separate subjects. The author is to be congratulated on the able manner in which he has filled the gap in our technical literature and given an unusually complete survey of the mechanical methods used in carrying out the various processes.

The almost complete elimination of any idea of secret methods in spinning and weaving has been brought about by the publication of text-books, and the establishment of technical schools and research institutions. In the same manner progress can only be attained and maintained by clear statements of the best and most efficient methods of carrying out the processes of bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing. The empirical methods of yesterday are totally inadequate to meet the world-wide competition of to-day, and they have always been a bar to development and progress. This book will place in the hands of the chemist, the engineer, the bleacher, dyer, and finisher a mass of information that will enable them to build up a solid business on sound constructive principles. Since each process is both important and extensive,

the book is necessarily large, and although it has been compiled under only nine chapters, the illustrations number 365, excellently reproduced in half-tone and line blocks.

The arrangement of the matter has not been by any means an easy task owing to the close interdependence of many of the processes, but the author has solved the difficulty in a fairly satisfactory manner. He deals with the machinery of various types used in each process, and whilst avoiding the display of preference for any particular machine, has the happy knack of so expressing himself that the reader can readily understand what machine will be best for any particular purpose. The book therefore becomes an invaluable work of reference, and is very suggestive, to a progressive man, in conveying ideas of further improvements.

Whilst machinery forms the staple matter in the book, each set of machines has an introductory explanation as to the necessity of the machines, so that the non-technical reader can readily understand the various steps carried out in any given process. A very wide field of textiles is covered, and whilst the chief aim is intended to be of real practical utility to the trade, the work may prove of great value and interest to many people who do not share in the actual production of textile materials, but are vital factors in dealing with the fabrics and materials after they are finished, including merchants, drapers, etc., and, even in many of our bleaching and dyeing works, the directors who have seriously to consider the question of equipment. All interested in this great industry will find the book of immense value, and we congratulate the author on what must have been a severe task. The book is well bound, its type is clear, and it bears evidence of the utmost care having been taken in its preparation.

W. S.-T.

### Our Bookshelf.

*How Natives Think (Les fonctions mentales dans les sociétés inférieures).* By Prof. Lucien Lévy-Bruhl. Authorised translation by Lilian S. Clare. Pp. 392. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1926.) 12s. 6d. net.

IN his preface to this book the author explains that "La Mentalité primitive," which appeared in English in 1923, and "Les Fonctions mentales dans les sociétés inférieures," of which this is a translation, are two volumes of one work. By an accident of circumstances, the second volume was translated into English before the first. This was unfortunate, as the essential principles of M. Lévy-