

Bruhl's theories are contained in the latter, and although the two books can be read apart, some knowledge of these principles is necessary before the argument can be grasped as a whole.

M. Lévy-Bruhl's thesis is, in the main, a constructive criticism of the views of the English school of anthropologists at the head of which stand Tylor and Frazer. He holds that the work of this school is based upon an assumption that the working of the human mind is everywhere and in all cases identical. The vast body of facts relating to primitive peoples which have been gathered together in the employment of the comparative method, have been interpreted in the light of the animistic theory and explained by the law of association, whereas the author maintains they can only be understood as 'collective representations'—social phenomena having their own laws which no analysis of the individual *qua* individual, such as is implied in the method of the English school, can ever reveal. The 'difference in degree' in savage mentality which is recognised by the English school, therefore, becomes for M. Lévy-Bruhl a difference in kind.

Thanks in a great degree to the French school of sociologists and social anthropologists, and to the work of certain anthropologists in England, the tendency to consider facts entirely *in vacuo* is now by no means so marked as it has been. M. Lévy-Bruhl's stimulating book, in which the consequences of the difference of point of view are worked out in detail, is by no means so entirely destructive of English theory as he hopes, but it will serve as a caution and a corrective.

Light Treatment in Surgery. By Dr. O. Bernhard. Pp. xii + 317. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1926.) 21s. net.

IN a foreword to this book, Prof. Leonard Hill refers to it as a masterly production, and we are inclined to agree with this verdict. The translator has done his work exceedingly well, and we now have a book to which we can turn with some confidence on the question of the use of light treatment in surgery; we hope that some one will be found who can cope with light treatment in medicine in as broad a comprehensive way as the author of the work under notice. We shall then be spared a continuance of the present holocaust of books written on the subject of ultra-violet therapy by writers of very little experience.

The book is divided into two parts, the first being general in its scope, the second, special in the sense that it deals with the actual light treatment in surgical cases. The two parts of the book are of about equal length, and the first five chapters give one a very good idea of our present state of knowledge on the effect of light on the organism generally, right up through the vegetable and animal kingdoms.

The second part of the book is divided into a section dealing with the indications for the use of this therapy and two sections on the helio-therapy of surgical tuberculosis. Scattered throughout the book are photographs and radiographs illustrating

the good effects which often accompany the treatment of patients with sunlight. That climatic conditions play an important part in the treatment of tuberculous patients is recognised by the author, and, in fact, twenty-five pages are devoted to this subject. In a book the object of which has been to set forth the beneficent action of sunlight in disease, a section of no less than twenty pages is devoted to the pathological action of sunlight. The dangers to specially sensitive subjects and those accompanying over-doses of radiation are dealt with very fully.

The book should be welcomed by those who have looked, so far in vain, for an authoritative account in English of this new, yet really very old, form of therapy.
S. R.

An Outline of Plant Geography. By D. H. Campbell. Pp. x + 392 + 52 plates. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1926.) 17s. net.

DR. D. H. CAMPBELL has written a simple and highly interesting outline of plant geography which can be read with pleasure and profit by the botanist, and also, which is of more importance, by all who are interested in the vegetation of the earth. He reviews in a light and pleasant manner the types of vegetation to be found in the north temperate zones of the old and new world, paying special attention to the interesting floral region of the western States of America and British Columbia. The south temperate zone is similarly discussed, and the central portion of the book is occupied with a description of the palæo- and neo-tropical regions, and their dense tropical forests. The descriptions of vegetation and scenery are enhanced throughout by numerous good and characteristic pictures, which add greatly to the interest of the book to the more general reader. Two prefatory chapters dealing with the succession of plants in geological times, the first land plants, man and the plant world, and the several climatic zones, give a useful summary of our knowledge of and the factors controlling the present distribution of plants.

It would have been useful for the more botanical reader had Dr. Campbell given the scientific names of some of the plants, to which he refers only by their popular names—names with which American botanists, no doubt, are quite familiar. It would also have been more convenient if data relating to rainfall, altitude, and temperature were given consistently either in the metric or English system. These, however, are only minor points in a very readable book, which is so readable because not only is it very well written, but also because the author writes with a personal knowledge of the vegetation of nearly every part of the world.

Civil Engineering Specifications and Quantities. By Dr. G. S. Coleman and G. M. Flood. Pp. xv + 282. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE administration of contracts is one of the most arduous duties of the civil engineer, and this book should be of distinct value to those of limited