

author gives many particulars of outdoor vine culture in California, Australia, and Europe, and describes very fully the several species of *Vitis* from which the cultivated grapes have originated. The book is not meant for the cultivator alone, but also for students, for it embraces all phases of the vine, passing from the historical, morphological, and biological, through the various processes of cultivation, to the preparation and marketing of the crop in the numerous forms in which it appears in commerce.

Following a general introduction, the author discusses both the external and internal morphology of the vine, the descriptive matter being aided by good illustrations. More than forty pages are then devoted to biological questions, which include germination of seeds, the factors governing bleeding after pruning—a question that often gives considerable trouble in Great Britain if pruning be left rather late—development of shoots, fructification, the chemical composition of grapes, ripening of wood, etc.

Chap. iv. deals with classification. Reference is made to the various genera composing the family Ampelidaceæ; then the numerous species of *Vitis* are reviewed, with special descriptions of those which produce grapes of commercial value, or are suitable for stocks on which to graft or bud cultivated forms or hybrids. The numerous hybrids between American species are described and comparisons are made between them, and between them and the European and Asiatic forms of *Vitis vinifera*.

A special chapter then directs attention to details of propagation, and another to diseases and their treatment. Chap. x. deals with cultivation, giving special attention to manuring; whilst the following chapter describes methods of pruning and training. The remainder of the book is devoted to the products of *Vitis* and their preparation for the market.

The book is likely to prove of considerable value to students, cultivators, and others interested in the vines and their cultivation.

*The Zeiss Works and the Carl Zeiss Foundation in Jena: their Scientific, Technical, and Sociological Development and Importance popularly Described.* By Prof. Carl Auerbach. Translated from the fifth German edition by R. Kanthack. Pp. iv + 273. (London: W. and G. Foyle, Ltd., n.d.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE name of Abbe will probably remind most English readers of a certain theory of image formation in the microscope, perhaps also of some refractometers and other optical devices, but now that Prof. Auerbach has turned minstrel, and produced the saga of the Carl Zeiss Foundation with Abbe as the hero, protean, magnificent, we can scarcely escape the conviction that his hero's claim to greatness lies as much in sociology as in optics.

The fact that the first half of this well-illustrated book is a kind of conversational illustrated catalogue of the Carl Zeiss products and their history, an excellent advertisement through its atmosphere of

solid achievement and great potentiality, is not without significance in explaining the production of the English translation. This part of the book calls for no particular comment, except that certain outside inventors whose instruments have been made by Zeiss might have been mentioned, to say the least. The latter part of the book, however, will well repay any student of industrial organisation who finds time for its perusal. As Prof. Cheshire observes in his foreword, Abbe's scheme has now passed through the experimental stage. It has survived the shocks of war and war's ending. Its story is told with genuine feeling, not untouched by poetry, as befits a modern saga.

The epilogue laments that "the German people are impoverished, their savings, large and small, are gone and their purchasing powers have dwindled to the lowest level." Several pages in the book are devoted to a description of the Zeiss planetarium, and we now hear that at least eleven German cities have ordered such instruments. Those who know the cost of these will have much more respect for the purchasing power of the German people than seems to be the lot of Prof. Auerbach.

*An Asian Arcady: the Land and Peoples of Northern Siam.* By Reginald le May. Pp. xiv + 274 + 64 plates. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 21s. net.

NORTHERN SIAM—the Lao country—has received little attention from travellers, and although the teak trade has attracted not a few Europeans, information about it is scanty. This is the more to be regretted as it well deserves Mr. le May's designation of 'Arcady,' and its people ethnologically present many points of interest. This account of the country and its people is therefore welcome, especially as it is illustrated by a large number of excellent photographs. The author has dealt with his subject historically and analytically in an ethnographic account of Lao customs and beliefs, which, though not systematic, contains many interesting data; and descriptively, in an account of a journey through the country. He has also included extracts from the references of early travellers. The first of these is Marco Polo, who, however, did not visit the Lao himself. The Lao were originally an offshoot of the Tai from China, and ethnologically they stand midway between the Shan and the Siamese. Nominally Buddhist, their beliefs are largely animistic, with a firm belief in the power of witches. A characteristic practice is that of roasting the mother of a new-born child, a custom also followed in the Malay peninsula—in a recently reported case with fatal results.

*Racial Origins of English Character: with an Appendix on Language.* By R. N. Bradley. Pp. 102. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1926.) 6s. net.

WHETHER mental qualities can be associated with racial characters is a question to which both anthropologists and psychologists have recently devoted