As its author candidly admits, the book lacks continuity, but gives a very readable, though necessarily incomplete, account of the principal morphological, physiological, and habitudinal modifications which the recent reptiles and amphibians have undergone. The whole work is profusely illustrated and, though errors are not entirely absent, the text is essentially sound; one can only therefore regret the occurrence of such a sentence as this: "——and marvellous developments have been attained, though by infinitely slow degrees, to enable these fascinating creatures [snakes] the better to fit into the environmental niche pointed out to each plastic form by the inevitable finger of evolution." It would be interesting to know whether Dr. Barbour really believes that the evolutionary changes an animal has undergone determine the environment it occupies. There is no index.

Feuchtigkeitsmessung. Von Dr. Hermann Bongards. Pp. vii + 322 + 2 Tafeln. (München und Berlin: R. Oldenbourg, 1926.) 17 gold marks.

THE measurement of the humidity of the air as effected both at an ordinary climatic station and by sounding balloons is not very satisfactory; different methods of estimating evaporation also give different results. So this systematic account of the various processes of measurement that have been developed is of real value not only in a meteorological department, but also to such commercial enterprises as control the quantity of moisture in the air of their factories.

After a lucid statement of the physics of gases and vapours, Dr. Bongards groups the processes of measuring humidity according as they are dependent on (*a*) absorption, (*b*) saturation, (*c*) partial condensation of the water vapour, (*d*) evaporation, and (*e*) the hygroscopic properties of bodies; he also briefly describes the effect of water vapour on the optical, electrical, and other physical properties of bodies. The comprehensive nature of the treatment may be inferred from the fact that there are 126 diagrams or illustrations of instruments; where advisable their theory is fully discussed and practical advice in their handling is offered. The necessary tables are provided, and full indexes make the volume easy of reference.

Permanent Consultative Committee on Official Statistics. Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom: being a Systematic Survey of the Statistics appearing in all Official Publications issued in 1926 and in certain Selected Publications issued in 1927. Vol. 5 (1926). Pp. 273. (London: H. M. Stationery Office, 1927.) 1*s.* net.

THE charge can no longer be made against Government departments that official statistics are hidden in departmental publications of which only the initiated are aware. This valuable volume, issued at a nominal price, is a complete guide to all official statistics published during the past year. It consists of two parts, a subject index and a list of publications arranged under the headings of the departments of issue. The subject index is full and well supplied with cross references. No worker in need of Government statistics should have any difficulty in tracing what is available by the help of this volume. It is a work of reference which deserves a wide circulation.

Données numériques de biologie et de physiologie et chimie végétales. Rédigées par Prof. E. F. Terroine et par Prof. H. Colin. (Tables annuelles de constantes et données numériques, Extrait du Volume 5 (années 1917 à 1922). Pp. viii + 1537–1675. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie; Cambridge: At the University Press; Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1926.) 56 francs.

THE present section of this work deals with animal and plant physiology and biochemistry, and consists of tables extracted from papers published during the years 1917–1922, arranged under appropriate headings. Very varied information may be found within its pages. Thus weight-relationships, the chemical composition of organisms and their organs and tissue fluids, and the toxicities of drugs are all included. The greater part deals with plant physiology and chemistry, but data on enzymes and the biochemistry of vegetable products are frequently of use to animal physiologists. The data are given in French, but the table of contents is also given in English, German, and Italian. They are compiled from a selected list of about sixty different journals. The work should be useful for quick reference on any particular subject.

Vorlesungen über landwirtschaftliche Bakteriologie. Von Prof. Dr. F. Löhnis. Zweite, neubearbeitete Auflage. Pp. viii + 400 + 10 Tafeln. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1926.) 22·50 gold marks.

THE first edition of this book was published in 1913 and was regarded as a landmark in the development of agricultural bacteriology. Since that date, although the subject has advanced rapidly, no further edition has appeared, if the small book written in English in collaboration with Prof. Fred of Wisconsin be excepted. The present edition will therefore be welcomed by agricultural investigators, for though retaining the general form of presentation adopted for the original edition, the general results of the last fifteen years' research are incorporated, making the book essentially a modern text-book.

Practical Physics. By T. A. Bedford. Pp. x + 425. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 10*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE course of practical physics described in this book, which is based on manuscript notes used in the Cavendish Laboratory, covers the first year's work of the average student preparing for Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos. Most of the experiments are simpler than those performed in the following year, which are unfortunately only partially described in Dr. Searle's text-books. The short introductory section contains valuable general instructions, and the book will be particularly valued by those teachers of physics who have had the privilege of passing through Mr. Bedford's class.

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