

conditions, determinations of reaction-velocity, solubility, electromotive force, electrochemical equivalent, velocity of diffusion and viscosity, all call for the invention of appropriate apparatus, embodied in workmanlike designs, for making measurements of a high order of accuracy, whilst paying due regard to the possible effects of contamination by the fluid through which the pressure is transmitted to the system under investigation. It is therefore not an adverse criticism to say that more interest and instruction is to be found in reading *how* the experiments were made, than in nothing the character of the numerical results that were recorded. It is, indeed, almost a disappointment to read of the unfailing regularity with which the predictions of thermodynamics were fulfilled, since a few violent exceptions would have added an element of sport to what is now an almost monotonous record of difficulties surmounted and goals attained.

Those who know Prof. Cohen's linguistic and literary skill, and in particular his perfect mastery of English, together with the winsomeness of his appeal to his hearers, can paint a vivid picture of the attractiveness of the course of lectures to those who had the privilege of listening to them. The printed record will, however, be read with pleasure by a much wider circle of interested students and teachers, since it provides in a convenient and attractive form the equivalent of two monographs on subjects of wide general interest. T. M. L.

Our Bookshelf.

The Making of a Chemical: a Guide to Works Practice. By E. I. Lewis and Geo. King. Pp. 288. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1927.) 12s. 6d. net.

It must be something like twenty years since Mr. E. I. Lewis achieved fame as the author of an inorganic chemistry, which differed widely in character from most of the text-books that had been written previously. Mr. Lewis's book was specially designed for the needs of boys coming over from the classical side, who did not need to acquire a professional knowledge of the subject, but were expected to secure some measure of scientific culture from its study. His book proved, however, to be of wider value, in that its broad and philosophic treatment made it a suitable revision book for many students who had taken an elementary course, but without acquiring the fuller knowledge of the foundations of his faith, which one looks for in a university worker.

The schoolmaster has now become an industrialist, but without losing either his literary skill or his desire to teach the rising generation. He has, therefore, in collaboration with a colleague, written a book on "The Making of a Chemical,"

in which he gives much excellent advice to the student who is about to enter, and hopes to find a career in, chemical industry. His advice is so good that, if it were all put into practice, the product would be almost too perfect to be useful; it has certainly had the effect of leaving the reviewer with a sense of his own unworthiness to undertake so high and holy a vocation, and to marvel at the lofty heights to which the authors of such a book must themselves have attained.

On the other hand, if the reader is prepared to leave good advice to suffer its usual fate, he will find that the book contains a very useful sketch of the fundamental problems of chemical preparation when carried out on a large industrial scale, and a very readable summary of the typical solutions of these problems. Even more useful, perhaps, is the frequent reference to technical books, since the academic student, who knows how to track down original references with the help of Beilstein and the British Abstracts, may very easily be floored by the problem of finding out where to go for a trustworthy review of the best current practice in some branch of chemical engineering. The authors, one may suppose, have themselves tested and vindicated the usefulness of the books which they cite, and they will have rendered a real service to the young industrial chemist if they are able to guide him in the early stages of building up a technical library of his own.

Sex and Repression in Savage Society. By Bronislaw Malinowski. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. xv + 285. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., Inc., 1927.) 10s. 6d. net.

In this volume Prof. Malinowski restates his position in relation to the Freudian doctrine of the Oedipus complex, showing how that theory of father-and-son antagonism and a mother-and-son attraction based upon a sexual impulse, having been formulated in relation to a patrilineal society, breaks down when applied to the behaviour of peoples organised on matrilineal lines. He then passes on to the consideration of the nature of the influence of the family complex on the formation of myth, legend, and fairy tale, on customs, form of social organisation, and achievements of material culture, and finally passes to what is the most important contribution of his book to this subject, the consideration of the origins of culture, where he finds himself on the borderland between the animal and the human.

On the view that the instincts are plastic, and can be and are moulded by cultural influence, what the Freudians regard as fundamental, the manifestation of the sex instinct and its repression, become incidental. When it appears it is a maladjustment. Prof. Malinowski's conclusion, therefore, is that the building up of the sentiments and the maladjustments which this may entail depend largely upon the sociological mechanism working in a given society. The main aspects of this mechanism are the regulation of infantile