

detailed work to be in the main stream of present-day progress. On the other hand, a writer using such a method is liable to omit material which other people may think important. However that may be, the practical examples chosen for illustration are interesting enough; they include, *inter alia*, turbine plants for mercury vapour and steam, the uniflow engine, the Westinghouse impulse reaction turbine, the two-stroke Diesel engine, the gas turbine, and the exhaust gas turbine.

The descriptive matter is accompanied by 13 photographic plates, which should help students to visualise the items dealt with. Among the tables of heat properties of vapours at the end of the book there is included one for mercury vapour. Two Mollier charts are also provided, one for ammonia, according to the U.S. Bureau of Standards, the other for steam. The latter goes up to 750 lb. per sq. in., and 800° F. Worked examples are given, but we think students would appreciate answers to the examples set for practice. Other problems are stated under the heading (somewhat unfamiliar to English engineering books) of "topics for discussion." The theoretical work is clear, and the whole book is very readable. We surmise that Prof. Maconochie, being at the University of Virginia, has naturally had in mind the needs of American students, but his book has many features of interest for British students and engineers.

(5) The great importance nowadays of alternating current (A.C.) motors is reflected in the increasing literature of the subject. M. Lagron's book (which unfortunately has no preface) deals with the theory, design, and applications of A.C. motors, but synchronous motors are only alluded to, as they are the subject of another volume of the Blanchard series. The greater part of the book is devoted to induction motors. In this connexion there are interesting chapters on losses and heat conduction. Afterwards, chapters are included dealing with the circle diagram, starting and speed control, monophasic induction motors, and testing. A chapter on design is followed by another of 30 pages, in which the detailed design of a 45-h.p. 3-phase motor is gone into. Other chapters follow on construction and application of induction motors.

Commutator motors are dealt with in a single chapter, and the concluding chapter deals with compensation in A.C. installations, and speed control of induction motors in cascade. There are four plates. The book contains a large amount of information, and can be highly recommended.

S. LEES.

### Our Bookshelf.

*Love's Creation: a Novel.* By Marie Carmichael. Pp. iv + 416. (London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1928.) 7s. 6d. net.

A DESIRE to have things 'both ways' is common enough, but still it is one which deserves censure rather than praise; and so it is that we approach this book with an unfavourable impression. We are told on the cover that it is by Marie Carmichael, and then a publisher's note informs us that the author is really Dr. Marie Stopes, while for shop-window display a publisher's label repeats the information. Dr. Stopes wishes to gain fame in a field other than those in which she has already made a reputation, but as she does not wish her readers to be misled by that reputation she chooses a pen-name which turns out to be no pen-name at all. The obvious question is, Why bother? And doubtless an answer just as obvious will suggest itself.

As to the contents of the book, it is a novel with a scientific atmosphere, partly obtained by much of the setting being in the University of London, and partly as it is the medium for the expression of certain scientific views. A young biologist, hitherto wrapped in his work, falls in love with and marries one of his students, whose sister marries a wealthy man who had been an old friend of her family before it was overtaken by poverty. The first of these marriages ends in swift tragedy, and the second proves not quite satisfactory owing to the lack of passion on the wife's part, but it too is dissolved by tragedy, and the hero eventually marries his dead wife's sister, who possesses the somewhat unusual name of Rose Amber, which is always given her in this double fashion. This name in some measure typifies the style of the book, as indeed also does the cover, which struck us at once as florid, and despite everything the impression remained.

The scientific portion is crystallised in a chapter which is headed by the warning that it does not carry on the story, and should only be read by those who *think (sic)*. It consists in a popular exposition of the conception of the species as a greater unit of life, and is of course not new, and the manner in which it is put forward seems scarcely to merit the warning at the head of the chapter. We feel Dr. Stopes must do better than this if her literary name is to equal that she has won elsewhere.

W. P. K.

*Introduction to Physiological Chemistry.* By Prof. Meyer Bodansky. Pp. vii + 440. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1927.) 20s. net.

ALTHOUGH entitled an "Introduction to Physiological Chemistry," Prof. Bodansky's book contains considerably more material than might have been expected in an introduction to the subject. In fact, the work is suitable for the advanced student of biochemistry, not perhaps for the specialist, but for one who is reading biochemistry in addition to some other scientific subject. The work deals with the theoretical aspect of physiological