

bibliography of thirty pages, the majority of the references having been verified by consultation of the original papers. It should find a place in the library of all physiologists.

*Modern Industry.* By Prof. Ernest L. Bogart and Prof. Charles E. Landon. (Longmans' Economic Series.) Pp. x + 593. (New York and London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 16s. net.

IN their book on "Modern Industry" Messrs. Bogart and Landon have systematised the subject and co-ordinated the various aspects, striving to arrive at, and drive home, their views by the rigid application of a logical decision based upon the consideration of contrary arguments. But whilst admitting their skill, differences of opinion may still arise. They exhibit an American crispness of diction, which is incisive and pleasant, and with much of the text there cannot fail to be agreement; but in some places the authors attempt to prove too much; one example will suffice: "the soldiers, policemen, judges, and others who have maintained peace and order" may all claim a share in the production of any stated sample of manual labour; they would also allot a share to "the owners of the land and buildings where the work is produced," and there are still others to be regarded as co-operators. Such notwithstanding, the book is replete with cogent statements and well-conceived arguments; but no good is effected by depreciating the scientific attainments of past civilisations, in order to enhance the reputation of to-day. The six hundred pages are full of interest, and to very many of us the work will appeal as the gospel of machinery and mass production in contrast with individualism and the satisfaction of human needs as and when they arise. P. L. M.

*Our Wonderful Universe: an Easy Introduction to the Study of the Heavens.* By Prof. Clarence Augustus Chant. Pp. 191. (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 5s. net.

IN spite of the considerable number of elementary works on astronomy, this pleasant little book by Prof. Chant can scarcely be regarded as redundant. It is intended mainly for juveniles, though older people who require a very simple account of the heavens will find it perfectly readable, and will look in vain for pictures of oranges, balls of knitting, lamps, and other similar accessories frequently found in such books. The matter is almost entirely descriptive, dealing with the physical aspects of the heavenly bodies rather than with instruments, methods of observation, or theoretical considerations; an important feature of the book, therefore, as might be expected, lies in its illustrations. There is a large number of well-chosen pictures, among which special mention may be made of some excellent reproductions of planetary photographs taken by Dr. Wright in ultra-violet and red light; but some of the 'bird's-eye' views might be improved by the omission of what appear to be cumulus clouds. By the aid of these illustrations a very clear picture is presented of the universe as conceived by astronomers, and the book can scarcely

fail in one of its prime objects, namely, "to excite the wonder of young people, to fire their imagination, and to convey to them some notion of the majesty, the mystery, and the sublimity of it all."

*Philips' Pocket Surveyor.* Designed by George C. Sherrin. With 16-page Pamphlet. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd.; Liverpool: Philip, Son and Nephew, Ltd., 1928.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE "Pocket Surveyor" is a simple and ingenious mechanism for which it is claimed that it is always ready for 'spotting' levels, calculating heights of buildings and trees, gradients and areas; for setting right angles for sports grounds; for simple map-making and contouring. It is, however, difficult to imagine anyone seriously undertaking these duties with the instrument. The claim seems rather that where these calculations are not a matter of serious concern, the instrument might be used by way of instructional amusement. This is probably true, and one can well imagine "scouts, rovers, cadets, and members of similar organisations" using it as they might any other 'gadget.' The contention, however, that teachers of geography will appreciate the value of this device, "by which simple maps may be constructed, the areas of fields calculated, and the mysteries of contouring unravelled," is surely owing to a fundamental misconception of so-called 'practical geography.' Admittedly, pupils are not expected to produce a finished Ordnance Survey map, but if they do such work at all, apparatus, however simple, should be used which introduces the principles of the standard instruments. To suggest that in any circumstances the "Pocket Surveyor" can do or teach the work of survey instruments is misleading and inadvisable. As an instructive toy it is excellent.

*The Geology of Malayan Ore-Deposits.* By J. B. Scrivenor. Pp. xv + 216. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 16s. net.

THE Malay Peninsula is of especial geological interest both academic and economic. The primary facts regarding it are uncertain owing to the contradictory accounts of Mr. Scrivenor, the Government Geologist, Mr. W. E. Cameron, the former Government Economic Geologist, Dr. W. R. Jones, and Dr. Rastall. Mr. Scrivenor remarks that the confusion "has rarely, if ever, been equalled in geological literature." We therefore turn to this attractive volume in the hope of finding a solution of the difficulties. It should close one of the controversies, for the author abandons his claim for the Permo-Carboniferous age and glacial origin of some boulder beds, and accepts them as modern alluvial deposits. In other respects, however, the issues still remain obscure; for though Mr. Scrivenor remarks that the conclusions in Dr. Rastall's recent papers should be used as a basis of discussion, he is obviously doubtful about them. The author's account does not carry conviction as to whether in Malaya there are two distinct series of granites, and whether some of it is of Upper Mesozoic age. The book leaves some of the fundamental facts of Malay geology in unfortunate uncertainty. It contains a concise and useful account of the chief tin mines.