

is not on the science side. Its author's rare gifts of exposition and illustration are amply illustrated in this little book, which Messrs. Benn have done well to add to their excellent series. It has the distinction, won by all too few physics books, of passing successfully our third question posed above.

A. J. WHITE.

Our Bookshelf.

Éléments d'histologie. Par Prof. P. Bouin. Tome 1: *Cellule; division cellulaire; différenciation cellulaire; classification morphologique et fonctionnelle des cellules, tissus et organes; éléments de soutien, contractiles, nutritifs; sang, lymphe, organes hématopoïétiques, vaisseaux sanguins et lymphatiques.* Pp. vii + 334 + 2 planches. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1929.) 120 francs.

ALTHOUGH the major part of organic histology remains to be treated in a second volume, and does not come within the scope of this present notice, it may be said that there is now no treatise of medical and general histology which does for English students what this work by the distinguished professor at Strasbourg does for the French. The appearance of the work is a restraining influence upon the increasing detachment of medical training from biological actualities and a check upon the facile conceptualism which makes precise knowledge of the organism a matter of professional indifference. The work is inspired throughout by that 'esprit biologique' which the author deems to be the foundation of medical science, while recognising that his specialty "can no longer limit itself to the study of the minute anatomy of the mammals, but should aim higher and further, concerning itself with some of the questions which preoccupy the minds of inquirers at the present moment".

If the work thus revives a diminished biological faith, it also affords general access to recent accumulations of knowledge, not merely as addenda but also in their proper perspective as parts of an orderly whole. There may be cited the sections dealing with protoplasm from a physico-chemical point of view, microdissection methods applied to karyokinesis; tactisms and tropisms; up-to-date articles on ossification, on joints, on the blood, the blood-vessels, and on the reticulo-endothelial system. Excellent bibliographies are provided to guide the student.

Text-books are, unfortunately, necessary. It is not the fault of any one in particular, but the inevitable fault of all, that they give undue publicity to error. W. Glaser, in pre-War days, figured "fine nerves passing close to a capillary, itself surrounded by somewhat thicker, spirally-arranged nerves". The figure reappeared in Müller's "Die Lebensnerven". Krogh borrowed it for his work on capillaries. It became famous, and many thousands of students have seen it on the lecture-screen. It appears in the present work over the description: "nervous terminations about a capil-

lary, showing the spiral course of nerve fibrils". The vessel is not a true capillary, and the 'nerve' has the familiar features of the spiral muscular loops around small arteries. Although hundreds of investigators must have seen appearances identical with Glaser's photograph, his description—the sole evidence for the double innervation of capillaries—has not hitherto been questioned. The demand for objective verification of physiological theories is responsible for the spread of such legends, but not entirely for their authorship.

TUDOR JONES.

From the Seen to the Unseen. By the Rev. John H. Best. Pp. xii + 552. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 18s. net.

THIS volume is an attempt to examine afresh the established facts and generalisations of modern science, and to ascertain how far such a consideration is capable of an interpretation in harmony with a belief in God as one who not only is absolutely good, but also is an active worker for the realisation of certain far-off beneficent ends.

The opening section of the book deals mainly with matters of a biological order. Mr. Best insists upon the failure to solve the details of embryonic development along the lines of pure mechanism, and in his psychological section he supports this view by pointing out how it would seem that the hypothesis of an inner principle of life is both desirable and necessary. Regarded from this point of view, the phenomena of life suggest to Mr. Best the existence of a supreme intelligence, and, arguing from similar premises, the theory is advanced that, in addition to intelligence and will, such human attributes as feeling and emotion may be added. Man's relation to the deity is then examined, and the conclusion is reached that, since the universe shows manifold indications of purpose in its later evolutionary stages, so the life of man suggests a purpose and a progress towards perfection.

Mr. Best's thesis is not new, but its freshness of treatment and sometimes originality of presentation may make it a valuable aid to those who, not content with a cautious agnosticism, prefer to seek support for their religious speculations in those departments of science which, from their very complexity, may not yet be sufficiently well understood to be described adequately in terms of the known.

The Annual of the British School at Athens. No. 28, Session 1926-1927. Pp. xi + 354 + 23 plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 63s. net.

In this volume we have a record of the operations of the British School of Archæology at Athens in the session 1926-27. In addition to the usual report of the Director and the accounts, it contains reports on the work which has been done by members of the School. The major operations continue to be the excavation at Sparta, where in the session of 1927 further work was carried out on the Theatre and the Acropolis. This is described by the Director, Prof. J. P. Droop contributing an