

especially Part I. by Russell W. Porter, which describes various mountings for amateurs' use and gives many practical details of glass working, including the making of optical flats and eyepieces. The book may, perhaps, give the impression that a great deal of optical work is somewhat easier than it really is. The fortunate learners are those who can have the guidance of an experienced worker in their early efforts, but the clear sketches and diagrams will make the way as smooth as it can be made for those who must venture alone. They will be left in no doubt as to the details of tests like the Foucault knife-edge test, and will be well guided with up-to-date information on figuring and abrasives. We think that even professional opticians may find this a handy book for reference on such points as silvering and the like.

*Artificial Silk.* By Prof. Dr. Franz Reinthaler. Enlarged and revised edition translated from the German by Prof. F. M. Rowe. Pp. xii + 276 + 45 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1928.) 21s. net.

PROF. ROWE'S translation of "Die Kunstseide und andere seidenglänzende Fasern" represents a thorough revision and considerable extension of the original German work by Dr. Reinthaler, and is undoubtedly one of the best books on the subject.

In addition to a full account of the manufacture and properties of the better known types of artificial silk, it gives adequate descriptions of Lilienfeld's viscose, the various ether silks, and of such products as staple fibre, tape, and cloth-like fabrics made directly from cellulose solutions. The section on microscopy, which is illustrated by about thirty-five photomicrographs and several diagrams, is particularly interesting: but the rest of the chapter on the properties of artificial silks might perhaps have brought out more effectively the special advantages and disadvantages of the various types of artificial silk in relation to the natural fibres. Again, some sections in the chapter on the examination and testing of artificial silks are less exhaustive than might be expected from the practical importance of such examinations. Thus in the section on the determination of artificial silk in mixed fabrics, only one method applicable to mixtures of wool and artificial silk is described, and none applicable to fabrics containing real silk.

Of the 260 pages of text, twenty-nine pages are given to the dyeing of artificial silks, seventeen to its uses, and nine to the economic situation of the industry. The final chapter deals very briefly with wild silks, vegetable silks, and modified cottons.

*The Forestry Question in Great Britain.* By Prof. E. P. Stebbing. Pp. viii + 217. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd., 1928.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book has been written with the view of placing before the general public the present position of forestry and its bearing upon future timber supplies. The book is divided into two parts: (1) the case for the public; (2) the case for the forester. The first part begins with a chapter on historical matter

concerning forestry, and is followed by an examination of questions such as public opinion on the forestry question; the soft wood timber supplies and industrial requirements; timber supplies of the countryside; the financial aspect of the forestry problem; protective woods, beauty spots, and playgrounds; etc. In the second part of the book the author deals with technical problems, different types of forests and the reasons for growing them; privately and publicly owned forests; the work of the Forestry Commission, including the present census of British woodlands, and many other interesting problems.

The author has succeeded in producing a book that can be read with profit by both technical and non-technical people, for the technical part is so worded that it can be clearly followed by those who have not made a study of forestry questions. From Prof. Stebbing's position as chief of the Department of Forestry at the University of Edinburgh, he is well able to write with authority upon the subject under review.

*Beneath Tropic Seas: a Record of Diving among the Coral Reefs of Haiti.* By Dr. William Beebe. Pp. xiii + 234 + 39 plates. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., 1928.) 15s. net.

THE use of the diving helmet, the glass-bottomed boat, and the under-water camera, has given new zest to the study of marine life, and the Haitian Expedition of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society could scarcely have chosen more promising ground for testing the value of a floating laboratory. The scientific results of the expedition are promised in due course, but in the meantime the Director has published this volume as a popular exposition of the methods and possibilities of a new line of investigation. It is picturesquely, if somewhat diffusely, written, and gives a fair impression of the varied interests of nearly five months' exploration in the sea and in the jungle. For the would-be explorer a series of useful appendices describes the equipment necessary, the apparatus and methods of submarine photography, and the cost of the expedition, which, including the schooner, outfit, and staff of nine for five months, amounted only to about £3000.

*Social Psychology: the Psychology of Political Domination.* By Prof. Carl Murchison. (The International University Series in Psychology.) Pp. x + 210. (Worcester, Mass.: Clark University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1929.) 16s. net.

PROF. MURCHISON does not intend his book to be used as a text-book, though according to him it may be so used by those who "are not forced to lead the life of formal quizmasters". He is worried by the barrenness of much of so-called social psychology and has attempted to make it more concrete. He considers in turn diverse subjects such as birth-control, community justice, the social contract theory, socialism, anarchy, democracy, and others, from their psychological aspects. His treatment, however, is too slight to be of substantial value.