

end of the book. When the student has mastered the theory, he will find it an excellent exercise to find out the function of the various parts of the machines shown. A good description is given of mercury vapour rectifiers, both single phase and polyphase. Quite a satisfactory and useful theory of their working is given, relations being found between the power expended, the voltages, and the currents.

Colour and Colour Theories. By Christine Ladd-Franklin. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. xv + 287 + 9 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1929.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book gathers together the scattered records of the life-work of Dr. Ladd-Franklin on the subject of colour vision, and thereby enables the value of that work to be more readily assessed. Possibly the best short indication of the nature of that work and its accompanying battles is supplied by the author herself in her review of Parsons' "Colour Vision": "The very discreditable state of Colour discussion . . . may be summed up . . . in this way:

Helmholtz.

Hering.

Trichromatism is a fact. Tetrachromatism is a fact. "These are evidently two absolutely contradictory statements, but both are true. *Que faire?* At this point I felt myself obliged to interfere, with (1) a reformed terminology, and (2) an adequate colour theory. I substitute for the above two statements this:

The Development Theory.

"*Tri-receptorism* is a fact and tetrachromatism is a fact, and these two facts are reconciled in the development colour theory—. . . ." R. J. B.

The Child's Conception of the World. By Prof. Jean Piaget. Translated by Joan and Andrew Tomlinson. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. ix + 397. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1929.) 12s. 6d. net.

PROF. PIAGET herein gives the next step in the attempt to interpret the results of the painstaking investigations in child psychology carried out at the Institut Rousseau. The problems here dealt with are distinct from those dealt with in his "Studies in Child Logic", and will be followed by a further volume dealing with the "child's physics and the analysis of the explanations children give . . . concerning the detail of phenomena and the way in which transformations and movements take place".

The book is divided into three parts under the heads realism, animism, artificialism. In the first, the origin and growth of a child's notions of thought and dreams are dealt with. In the second we find consciousness attributed to things and the growth of the concept of life. In the third the development of ideas as to the origin of common objects, as sun

and moon, trees and mountains, are followed, and the meaning and origin of child artificialism considered.

R. J. B.

Über Druckschieferung im varistischen Gebirgskörper. Von Prof. Dr. Axel Born. (Fort-schritte der Geologie und Paläontologie, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. W. Soergel, Band 7, Heft 22.) Pp. vii + 329-428 + 6 Tafeln. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1929.) 12 gold marks.

THE *Druckschieferung* is interpreted as pressure-cleavage which converts clays into clay-slates and sericitic phyllites. The process is explained as the beginning of dynamo-metamorphism; the various stages, which are classified as shale, jointed mudstones, block cleavage, smooth cleavage, and fold-cleavage, and the microscopic changes in the rocks, are well described and illustrated by Dr. Born.

The monograph deals with the development of the slates in the Rhineland, Harz, and Thuringia and Bohemia. In the bibliography the only British authors included are Sharp, Hutchins, and North. A useful table gives some equivalent terms in English, French, and German.

What is Eugenics? By Major Leonard Darwin. (The Forum Series, No. 9.) Pp. viii + 88. (London: Watts and Co., 1928.) 1s. net.

IN many ways this tiny volume is a more effective plea for a eugenic social policy than the same author's large work, "The Need for Eugenic Reform". The need for brevity has made him concentrate on essentials and disregard relatively unimportant considerations, while the style is clearer and less involved. Starting with domestic animals and the selection, conscious and unconscious, to which man has subjected them, he leads the reader on naturally to consider man himself as fundamentally kin to them, the product of evolution by heredity and natural selection. The interaction of heredity and environment is explained with simplicity and common sense: and a swift glance, in the light of these biological principles, is given to the nation's racial qualities. The remaining chapters are devoted to the possibility and desirability of eugenic methods. The book is the best brief answer yet published to the question the title asks.

Le totémisme. Par Maurice Besson. (Bibliothèque générale illustrée, 10.) Pp. 80 + 60 planches. (Paris: Les Éditions Rieder, 1929.) 22 francs.

THIS book may be interesting to the French public, but it is of little value for English students, as the subject has been dealt with at greater length and with more insight and accuracy by many English-speaking writers. An example of the lack of knowledge shown is afforded by the following quotation: "If the Papuan peoples of New Guinea are not totemic, in the western part of this great island, amongst those of the eastern zone, there exist tribes organised into clans but possessing no totems and not observing taboos". The bibliography is meagre. There are 31 excellent plates, which are not referred to in the text; this is scarcely remarkable, as few have any bearing on totemism; two of the figures are upside down.