Dreams" and makes particular reference to dreams as premonitory phenomena. The following section is headed "The Isolation of Man" and raises the question of whether the mind may acquire the sense of the fourth dimension, thus being liberated from our present human environment. The book concludes with two short articles on "Marvels of Space and Time" and "God". The subject dealt with is, of course, a very wide one and lends itself to much speculation, and among the great number of names to which reference is made we find those of Eddington and Whitehead.

Old Mother Earth. By Prof. Kirtley F. Mather. Pp. xiv + 177 + 59 plates. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1928.) 11*s.* 6*d.* net.

IN view of conditions in Tennessee, where scientific evidence and spiritual exposition continue to be confused with unfortunate public results, it is not surprising that popular American books on geology are still seriously exercised with the views held in ancient Palestine thousands of years ago. Prof. Mather has faced the issue very tactfully in this entertaining volume, which is based on a series of radio talks delivered at Boston. The topics dealt with include the origin of the earth; the evolution of life; the Great Ice Age and its causes; earthquakes and mountain building. All are adequately dealt with, and we are glad to see that the tidal theory of Jeans and Jeffreys is not overlooked in the discussion of "How the World was Made". The treatment of glaciation is excellent, particular pains being taken to prove that the equator had the same relation to the mountains of western America as it has to-day. The illustrations are numerous and effective, and are enlivened by reproductions of medieval representations of Jehovah at work taken from the "Nuremberg Chronicle" of 1493. The book is a well-written and trustworthy introduction to geology, and may be cordially recommended to all who are interested in the lore of the earth as students or teachers.

The Pressure Pulses in the Cardiovascular System. By Prof. Carl J. Wiggers. (Monographs on Physiology.) Pp. xi + 200. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 14*s.* net.

WRITTEN in response to the wish of the late Prof. Starling that the writer should analyse "in the briefest possible manner, the present state of our knowledge concerning the pressure pulses in the cardiovascular system", it is impossible to indicate in a paragraph more than the purpose of this book, and to commend the thoroughness and care with which the work has been done. The elucidation of the dynamics of some relatively simple physical system frequently entails much preparation and ingenuity in experiment. The first chapter of this work will indicate to the curious how vast and intricate a preparation has gone to the study of the dynamics of the animal cardiovascular system. There has developed a technique which not more than ten investigators have mastered. "We cannot deny that the circulation of an animal is affected adversely by such experimental influences as artificial respiration, anæsthesia, hæmorrhage, nerve stimulation, exposure of heart and lungs, insertion and fixation of cannulæ. We can nevertheless maintain that it is quite possible to obtain circulatory conditions which appear to be normal to all criteria which we are able to apply." Such an assertion argues a great confidence in an investigator, a confidence which, if justified, marks a great victory for ingenuity over the difficulties of animal experiment.

Contributi del Laboratorio di Statistica. Serie Prima. (*Pubblicazioni della Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Serie ottava: Statistica*, vol. 3.) Pp. vii + 436. (Milano: Società Editrice "Vita e Pensiero", 1928.) 50 lire.

THIS book contains the researches of statisticians of the laboratory directed by Prof. M. Boldrino, on a varied group of phenomena, for example: the eugenic effect of wine consumption; passenger traffic on Lake Maggiore; the proportion of the sexes at conception and birth; death from a single cause; progressive paralysis in malaria districts. Among such a miscellaneous group of subjects one can find a certain unity due to the method of treatment and to the work being the product of a single laboratory. Some of the conclusions drawn from the statistics employed are very interesting.

(1) That alcoholic intoxication appears to have serious consequences only at a rather advanced age, so that its eugenic effect should be small.

(2) That the human sexes are conceived in equal numbers.

(3) That the relative frequency of progressive paralysis in malaria districts is high and tends to become less in those districts where malaria is less rife. This is curious in view of the successful treatment of progressive paralysis by inoculated malaria.

Sunrays and Health. By Ronald Millar, in collaboration with Dr. E. E. Free. Pp. vii + 125. (New York: Robert M. M'Bride and Co., 1929.) 1.50 dollars.

THIS small volume gives a popular account of the physics and therapeutic uses of light, with special reference to the ultra-violet rays. The text is in a conversational and simple style, and although certain details refer more especially to the continent of America, it can be recommended for perusal by anyone who wishes to have some knowledge of the uses and abuses of a much-advertised remedy. The author gives simple instructions for sun-bathing and points out the dangers of over-exposure: burning the skin is deleterious and unnecessary as a prelude to a becoming tan. He also points out the advantage of exposure to sunlight or skyshine in the open air with the accompanying effect of the cooling power of the air on the skin resulting in stimulation of metabolism and benefit to health. For those who wish to expose their skin to ultra-violet rays during the winter, directions for time of exposure and distance from the lamp are given. In conclusion, this is a sane and readable account of a natural remedy which many are inclined to take in excessive doses.