

Our Bookshelf.

Die Technologie der Fermente. Herausgegeben von Prof. Carl Oppenheimer. Halbband 2: *Fermente in der Fettindustrie, Milchwirtschaft, Lederindustrie, Gelatine- und Leimindustrie, Pharmaz. Industrie, Malzextraktindustrie, Textilindustrie, Nahrungsmittelindustrie.* Pp. xi + 370. (Leipzig: Georg Thieme, 1929.) 42 gold marks.

THE work before us forms the completion of the fourth volume of Prof. Oppenheimer's great treatise "Die Fermente und ihre Wirkungen". The fourth volume is entitled "Die Technologie der Fermente", the first half-volume of which was compiled by Dr. Albert Hesse of Munich. The subject matter it dealt with may be gathered from its title, "Enzymatische Technologie der Gährungsindustrien". The second half-volume, which is now under review, is concerned with the subjects given above under the sub-title.

The hydrolysis of fats on an industrial scale by the lipases is dealt with by Dr. Emil Hoyer, whose article contains 17 illustrations. Dr. W. Grummer's short article on enzymes in the milk industry is concerned with the technology of rennet. A comprehensive monograph of 116 pages on the leather industry includes 21 illustrations and is contributed by Dr. Otto Gerngross, following which is a short article of four pages by the same author on gelatin and glue. The article by Drs. P. Bergell and H. Carls on enzymes in pharmacology covers 102 pages and contains five illustrations. The concluding three articles are by Dr. A. Hesse, the subject matter being commercial malt extract, the significance of enzymes in the textile industries, and industries concerned with foods. They occupy 13, 79, and 69 pages of text respectively.

Throughout the work citations are made to scientific papers as well as to patent specifications.

Prof. Oppenheimer may be congratulated in having, with the help of his collaborators, produced an exceedingly valuable treatise on a department of science of ever-increasing industrial importance.

A. R. L.

Vorkommen und Geochemie der mineralischen Rohstoffe: Einführung in die Geochemie und Lagerstättenlehre; besonders für Chemiker und Studierende der allgemeinen Naturwissenschaften. Von Prof. Dr. Georg Berg. Pp. x + 414. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1929.) 28 gold marks.

IN accordance with the modern tendency, Dr. Berg regards the study of mineral deposits as 'applied geochemistry'. His book, moreover, does not deal exclusively with ore deposits in the strict sense but includes deposits of all the useful minerals. It is divided into two parts. Part I consists of an introduction to geochemistry, and treats of the general factors underlying the distribution and migration of elements within the crust and interior of the earth, and the particular factors upon which their local enrichment to workable bodies depends. In this part is given a good summary of all modern work on the subject.

In Part 2 the elements are considered individually, although there is a primary grouping into certain classes, and in certain cases two closely related elements may be treated together. The various mineral species are dealt with, and in every case the actual mode of occurrence is regarded as a function of all the geochemical characters of the element in question. By this means the genetic relationships are made clear and the paragenesis of both elements and minerals takes on a new significance. In a book of this nature it is quite impossible to describe every known deposit of each element: nevertheless, the author has selected representative examples of the important types from world sources. The text is illustrated throughout with numerous diagrams and sections.

Travels in the Congo. By André Gide. Translated from the French by Dorothy Bussy. Pp. ix + 375 + 16 plates. (New York and London: Alfred A. Knopf, 1930.) 15s. net.

THIS volume, which is a translation of "Voyage au Congo" and "Le Retour du Tchad", published in 1927 and 1928, is the embodiment of an ambition realised after thirty-six years. It is appropriately dedicated to Joseph Conrad. André Gide, the distinguished French man of letters, has here recorded the day-to-day events and the impressions stored up in a journey by road and river, in boat and car, but mostly on foot, through the Belgian and French Congo to Lake Chad. The reader should feel no disappointment at finding this no scientific record: beyond an amateur interest in the more remarkable fauna of the tropics, and to some greater extent in the lepidoptera and flora, the author had not the equipment for systematic observation. But nevertheless, as a vivid impressionistic picture of life and travel in tropical Africa, it has a value. Native life and character stand out in the round against a background of the forest. Though the author started, as he himself confesses, with little interest in the native and his relations with the white inhabitants and the administration, this soon became the main interest of the journey. It is beyond question that his intervention brought to the notice of the administration many abuses in treatment of the natives by the commercial companies to whom concessions had been granted.

Experimental Physical Chemistry. By Prof. F. Daniels, Prof. J. Howard Mathews, and Prof. J. W. Williams. (International Chemical Series.) Pp. xvi + 475. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1929.) 17s. 6d. net.

ALTHOUGH there is no lack of good English textbooks on practical physical chemistry, the present volume forms a welcome addition to the literature of the subject. It covers the range of experiments usually done by students in Great Britain, and gives in addition a number of alternative experiments of a more advanced character which will make the book useful to those beginning research. There are useful references to literature. The book should be available in every physico-chemical laboratory.