

given. Prefixed to the sections relating to the universities of France, the United States of America, Spain, and Italy, are short accounts of the organisation of higher education in those countries. An account is also given of the organisation of studies in the University of London, as being typical of British universities in general. In the index of persons' names references are not merely to pages but also to subdivisions of pages. The pages being small and the names being printed in bold type, this makes the tracing of references an easy matter. Provision is made for enabling authors who wish to exchange original memoirs with others to advertise the fact.

In the preface, contributed by M. Appell, the well-known Rector of the University of Paris, it is claimed as a merit of the method of arrangement adopted that it shows "avec une clarté toute française le rang de chaque pays au point de vue intellectuel": a thankless service, of dubious value, more likely to attenuate than to strengthen those relations on the intellectual plane between the peoples of the world which are to pave the way, according to M. Appell, for the advent of the veritable League of Nations. It would be easy but profitless to compare and comment on the allocations of space in the "Index" to the various countries, but there is one country the almost total exclusion of which compels remark, the more so in that its cultural relations with France were once very close—Russia. The only references under the heading U.S.S.R. are to two astronomical observatories, and the same remark applies to the Ukraine and Turkestan. It would seem that the editor holds the conditions of a socialist State to be such as to vitiate the pursuit of all branches of knowledge, except knowledge of the celestial bodies! Minerva (1930) devotes 59 pages to Moscow alone and gives information about universities at fourteen places in Russia which are not even mentioned in the "Index Generalis".

The preparation of the chapter relating to universities in the British Empire was, or could have been, made comparatively easy by using the "Universities Yearbook of the British Empire". Recourse to this could have prevented such mistakes as omitting the University College of Swansea and London Day Training College, and the teaching staff of the largest English university college for women (Bedford).

Although still marred by deficiencies in regard to balance and too many inaccuracies in detail, the "Index Generalis" has greatly improved since its first appearance in 1919.

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Our Bookshelf.

Hyde Park: its History and Romance. By Mrs. Alec. Tweedie (*née* Harley). Abridged revised edition. Pp. vii + 239 + 29 plates. (London: Besant and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS is an abridged and revised edition of a book published in 1908, which in many parts has been largely rewritten. For Mrs. Tweedie's point is that of to-day. She brings the story of Hyde Park down to its mobilisation in 1926 during the great strike, and refers to the danger of Socialist proposals to-day for its popularisation as a sports ground. She follows the Park through its many vicissitudes from the grants of land east of Tyburn from the King to St. Dunstan in 960 and of Geoffrey de Mandeville, who fought at Hastings, of the Manor of Hyde to the abbey at Westminster. Under the Tudors after the suppression of the monasteries it became a Royal hunting-ground; but it was not until the return of Charles II. that it really entered upon its function as a centre of social gathering, primarily for the Court and its hangers-on. For long the people were not admitted. Nevertheless, Hyde Park serves as focus for more than one side of our earlier social history. Its neighbourhood was infested with footpads and highwaymen, and Tyburn, with its sinister associations of the hangman and the 'Triple Tree', was within its purlieus.

Mrs. Tweedie's book is an entertaining and gossipy narrative, instructive in its glimpses of English life and history; but she is a mistress of irrelevance. This is not entirely a fault, as it usually permits her to introduce matter which adds colour to her background. Little asides of social incidents and changes to-day, perhaps not even remotely connected with the Park, will have a value for the historian of the future. Their place and meaning become clearer when it is understood that the pageant "Heart of Empire" to be held at the Albert Hall in October next while the Imperial Conference is sitting is based upon the book. No doubt Mrs. Tweedie had in mind the public before whom the book will be brought in this way. They will treasure it in the future when overseas, perhaps most of all for these same little touches from the London of to-day.

L'atomistica moderna e la chimica. Per Dott. M. Haissinsky. Pp. xiv + 315. (Milano: Ulrico Hoepli, 1930.) 35 lire.

THE enormous strides made during the past few years in the knowledge of the inner structure of the atom, developed principally by physicists making use of physical and physico-mathematical methods, have led to the publication of numerous works dealing with this branch of modern physics. The author considered, however, that a need existed for a book dealing with such subjects more from the chemical point of view. In the preparation of the present volume, the requirements of the chemist in particular have, therefore, been borne