

together, in very readable form, the conclusions which have been drawn from numerous investigations into the functions of iodine in maintaining health in animals. The use of iodine, and various compounds of this element, for antiseptic purposes is first dealt with. The author then proceeds to discuss the diseases of iodine deficiency, showing how these diseases are amenable to treatment by iodine and its compounds. Further sections deal with the influence of iodides in nutrition and on growth and reproduction. Mention should also be made of the useful bibliography at the end of the volume. Col. Reid's book should be read by all, whether scientific workers or laymen, who are interested in health problems and the future virility of the race.

*An Introduction to Physical Anthropology.* By E. P. Stibbe. Pp. vii + 199. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1930.) 12s. 6d. net.

ANYONE conversant with the needs of those entering upon a course of anthropological study will be aware of the difficulty in finding a satisfactory text-book in physical anthropology. Not that there are no text-books in existence; but they are for the most part too detailed for the beginner and recent advances have made them out-of-date. Dr. Stibbe's "Introduction to Physical Anthropology" meets the need admirably. It deals with its subject matter under the heads zoological, palæontological, and ethnological. In the first we are introduced to the methods and findings of comparative morphology; in the second, the palæontologist, geologist, and archæologist are called to the assistance of the anatomist in elucidating the origin, evolution, and antiquity of man; and in the third, racial characters and distribution are considered. Useful instructions for practical work and a glossary of technical terms complete a volume which should fulfil all the requirements of a beginner in anthropological studies, so far as this is possible in a text-book; for one of the most useful features in Dr. Stibbe's book is his insistence on the necessity for handling specimens in a laboratory and for constant practice in measuring the living. The arrangement of the text in the zoological section in which man and the apes are compared in detail will be found most helpful. The author himself would be the first to agree how much his text-book owes to the teaching of Prof. Elliot Smith, and perhaps its greatest merit is the way in which it leads the student inevitably to an intelligent appreciation of Elliot Smith's eminent services to anthropology.

*Cours de chimie - physique.* Par Prof. L. Gay. Tome 1. Pp. xii + 705. (Paris: Hermann et Cie, 1930.) 85 francs.

THIS volume is the first of a series of three, of which the first two are to be devoted to thermodynamics and the third to classical physical chemistry (electricity and magnetism, colloids, chemical kinetics, catalysis, radiant energy, and photochemistry). The modern and controversial questions of radioactivity, atomic and molecular

structure, and the classification of the elements, are reserved for treatment in a later work. The first part of the present volume, covering nine chapters and 220 pages, is devoted to pure thermodynamics and thermochemistry. The second part, covering six chapters and 160 pages, unites rather ingeniously the study of the dilute gaseous state and of the crystalline state. The third part (three chapters and about 100 pages), dealing with osmosis and the phase rule, may be regarded as an introduction to the study of solutions, whilst the fourth part (five chapters and about 160 pages) is devoted to the study of pure substances, including the questions of continuity of state, the Brownian movement, and allotropy. An appendix of about 40 pages is devoted to problems, mainly of an industrial type, for which solutions as well as answers are given, and these may very well prove to be one of the most valuable features of the book.

*Antarctic Adventure and Research.* By Prof. Griffith Taylor. (Appleton New World of Science Series.) Pp. xi + 245. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Co., 1930.) 6s. net.

THERE are few general volumes on polar regions that deal with the scientific problems rather than with the adventure of exploration. This makes Prof. Taylor's volume welcome. As the title indicates, the adventure is not neglected, for about a third of the book treats of the history of Antarctic exploration. The remainder treats of scientific aspects. Prof. Taylor devotes most attention to the Ross Sea area with which he has personal acquaintance, and his predilection for physiography leads him to devote most space to several excellent chapters on topography, scenery, and ice. The biology receives less attention and the chapter on whaling is very brief. There are many graphic diagrams by the author and a useful bibliography, which might, however, be enlarged by more references to the Graham Land area and the Weddell Sea. The book makes no attempt to treat the islands of the Southern Ocean, but for a brief general account of the Antarctic it can be recommended.

*Practical Chemistry: for Advanced Students.* By Arthur Sutcliffe. Pp. vii + 216. (London: John Murray, 1930.) 4s. 6d.

MR. SUTCLIFFE'S book is suitable for pupils preparing for higher school certificate and similar examinations. Elementary experiments are not described and much detail concerning manipulation has been omitted, since students of this standard will not require it. The course covers qualitative and quantitative analysis, inorganic and organic preparations, and some simple exercises in physical chemistry. The directions for the preparations are clear and adequate, and the section on qualitative analysis contains all the equations for the reactions and explanatory notes. The course is well planned and the book should prove successful in schools where work of this standard is done.