

*The Principles of Photographic Pictorialism.* By F. C. Tilney. Pp. x + 218 + 80 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1930.) 25s. net.

MR. TILNEY is both a painter and a photographer, but above all he is a critic whose writings on photographic subjects during the past twenty years or more have been the best informed and most understanding of any. Whilst this, his latest book, is not specially concerned with photography, in that it does not touch upon any photographic manipulations or processes, it is one that will be of the greatest assistance to all who aspire to make their use of the camera something more than an aimless snapshotting of holiday incidents. It is equally addressed to the student of art and to the lover of Nature, and to both it should bring gain in the intelligent appreciation of the pictorial aspect of their subjects.

After a brief survey of the efforts at picture making in the past and the lessons they convey to us, he goes on to consider the practical points involved in this business of pictorial presentation by photography, and finally deals with certain controversial matters on which he holds firm views that do not always coincide with those held by other photographers. Wisely he begins with a chapter of definitions of the terms used by art critics, in order that there may be no misunderstanding or ambiguity. Thence he goes on to treat of the subject, its choice and design, all the factors relating to composition, beauty of shape, and tonal effect, the last a chapter of great value. In the main his observations are based upon landscape, but separate sections are devoted to figures, genre, the nude, portraiture, and still life. The final part deals with what he terms 'problems to come', under which are included halation, colour and panchromatism, perspective (on which he holds emphatic views regarding the difference between the vision of the eye and the lens), and control in printing. The illustrations, drawn from pictures by leading photographers of all times and lands, are in themselves a notable gallery of photographic art.

J. DUDLEY JOHNSTON.

*Allgemeine Moorgeologie: Einführung in das Gesamtgebiet der Moorkunde.* Von Kurd v. Bülow. (Handbuch der Moorkunde, herausgegeben von K. v. Bülow, Band 1.) Pp. xi + 308 + 12 Tafeln. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1929.) 30 gold marks.

INTEREST in peat has developed greatly in recent years, not only on the applied side of reclamation and utilisation but also on the more purely academic side. Much of the literature on the subject has, however, been inaccessible and diffuse. A "Handbuch der Moorkunde", to appear in ten volumes, will therefore be welcomed. The general editor is K. v. Bülow, of Leba, who has written the volume under review as an introduction, which will undoubtedly appeal to a wider audience than the more specialised volumes to follow. For this reason the treatment is didactic rather than critical, the nomenclature has been simplified, and references to original papers are relatively few.

After a descriptive chapter on the petrographic classification of moors, with many analyses of different kinds of peat, the author deals with modern theories of their origin and development and then proceeds to their stratigraphical morphology and geographical distribution. A preliminary attempt at a world peat map, based on the nomenclature of the Swedish worker, v. Post, shows the close relationships of the different kinds of moor to climatic factors. For Europe there is a fair agreement with the distribution of Meyer's *N.S.* quotient (rainfall divided by absolute saturation deficit). A discussion of Scandinavian work on the division of the Quaternary period by the study of peat profiles leads to an examination of the value of moors as indexes of climatic changes in post-glacial time. This part of the book will appeal to climatologists, geologists, and others.

*Simple Research Problems in Chemistry: for Junior Students.* By F. Sherwood Taylor. Pp. vii + 100. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1929.) 4s.; Answers only, 1s. 6d.

THE author holds the view that the usual practical training of chemistry students is unsatisfactory, and that "there is a marked tendency for a student to obtain a first-class degree without finding out anything at all". He proposes, as a remedy, to introduce a proportion of research into the school and university courses, so as to train students to a more scientific point of view. The benefit which students get from any practical course is largely dependent on the teacher, and it is questionable whether an unorthodox course such as is here presented would lead to any better results in the hands of a poor teacher than any other. The experiments are good, and one use of the book which suggests itself is to provide exercises for practical examinations. For senior pupils in schools who have been through the usual practical courses it will also provide scope for further work, and all teachers will find Mr. Taylor's book useful and interesting, whatever view they may take of the suitability of the course for the average student. Some of the exercises are suitable for quite advanced students.

*An Introduction to the Chemistry of Plant Products.* By Dr. Paul Haas and Prof. T. G. Hill. Vol. 2: *Metabolic Processes.* Second edition. Pp. viii + 220. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE second edition of this standard work has been largely rewritten and considerably amplified, particularly in the chapters dealing with those sections of plant metabolism which have been undergoing rapid expansion, such as respiration and growth. In the former case, the recent work of Meyerhof, Hill, and F. F. Blackman is combined into a unified scheme of considerable value. The rather brief section in the first edition dealing with nitrogen metabolism has also been enlarged by a detailed discussion of nitrate reduction. The authors have exercised a wise choice in their amplifications and the value of the book is greatly increased throughout.