

necessary to account for the arrangement of the cells in the formation of blastula and gastrula. As general propositions, not necessarily applied to the papers in this volume, we suggest that no research be published without an adequate summary, and that an author is not entitled to cite any literature which he has not personally consulted without stating this fact.

*Outlines of Palaeontology.* By Prof. H. H. Swinerton. Second edition. Pp. xii + 420. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1930.) 21s. net.

It is a good sign that a second edition of this excellent book should be called for after seven years, a period which for text-books of this rather special character must be regarded as short. For this is far removed from the ordinary manual. It is no mere summary of either facts or theories. While it does not ignore facts, it bases on them a succession of thoughts that breed thought in the reader. Prof. Swinerton has not compiled facts, he has assimilated them, and every page bears the mark of an original thinker.

While welcoming a second edition, we feel it our duty to say that the revision has not been so extensive as to provoke any student to exchange old lamps for new. Several obvious misprints have been corrected, but others only partially or not at all. *Saccemina*, for example, has had the *e* changed to *a*, but does not yet attain the perfection of *Saccamina*. Some erroneous or inexact statements of the first edition have been modified, but not always quite successfully, and this clearly has arisen from a desire not to alter the standing type or stereo-plates more than was necessary. Thus, on p. 141, there is an ingeniously contrived improvement in the account of the crinoid centrodorsal, but the distinction between that structure and the proximale is still incorrectly given. Several statements or expressions that we should like to have seen altered, remain as they were. Prof. Swinerton is entitled to his own opinion; but some of them are more of fact than interpretation. Among these, the diagram showing the relative abundance of the echinoderm classes in time certainly should have been re-drawn to-day, whatever may have been thought of it in 1923. Let us hope for a third edition in 1937.

F. A. B.

*Chemistry for Matriculation.* By Dr. G. H. Bailey and H. W. Bausor. Third edition. Pp. viii + 448. (London: University Tutorial Press, Ltd., 1931.) 7s. 6d.

THE aim of this class-book is to present a clear account of the essential principles and phenomena of elementary chemistry. The subject is divided into three sections. Section I is of an introductory nature. The earlier chapters are concerned with the study of such common substances as air, water, chalk, and the acids, bases, and salts. In the later chapters of this part, the fundamental principles and theories are deduced and outlined. This section concludes with a description of the phenomena of electrolysis and with chemical calculations. Section 2 consists of a lengthy systematic treatment

of the non-metals and their more important compounds, whilst Section 3 deals similarly (but more briefly) with some of the metals.

The authors have endeavoured to keep the treatment of the subject as practical as possible, and have introduced many simple experiments to illustrate the facts and support the general theories of the science. Sufficient details are generally given to enable the student to carry out the experiments unaided. Compared with previous editions, the subject matter of the book has undergone considerable revision and rearrangement, whilst additional information has been given, especially in connexion with industrial practice. Opinions differ concerning the most suitable methods of treating elementary chemistry; but as a text-book for candidates reading for university matriculation examinations, Bailey and Bausor's volume attains its object.

*Aus der Medizin des Rinascimento. An der Hand des "Leben von Benvenuto Cellini" nach der Übersetzung Goethes.* Von Prof. Dr. Paul Strassmann. Pp. 56. (Leipzig: Georg Thieme, 1930.) 13 gold marks.

THIS fine volume contains a commentary on the passages in Goethe's translation of Cellini's autobiography which throw light on the medicine of the Renaissance. The close relationship between the artists and anatomists of the period, of which Leonardo da Vinci offers the best-known example, is well illustrated by Cellini, who counted among his friends Guido Guidi, otherwise known as Vidus Vidius, of Florence, and Berengario da Carpi, of Bologna, who, in addition to being highly skilled surgeons, made valuable contributions to anatomy.

Several pages are devoted to a consideration of Cellini's illnesses, which included malaria, from which he suffered on several occasions; brass founders' ague, contracted while he was engaged on the statue of Perseus at Florence; a protracted fever, accompanied by delirium, which may have been typhoid; and a disease regarded by some authorities as syphilis, though this view is discredited by Strassmann; as well as an almost fatal attack of arsenical poisoning. The other points of medical interest discussed in this book are the prevalence during the Renaissance of syphilis, prostitution, and homosexual practices; the high incidence of illegitimacy, the position of contemporary obstetrics, and the high maternal and infantile mortality.

The text is interspersed with numerous excellent illustrations relating to Cellini and the medical life of his age.

*The Human Body.* By Dr. Logan Clendening. Second revised edition. Pp. xiv + 399. (London and New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1931.) 10s. 6d.

It is refreshing to meet a book like this, which is at one and the same time enlightening and entertaining. It contains a fund of common sense, and the passages on dyspepsia and constipation ought not to be missed by present-day food faddists. It represents a pleasant means of obtaining much information about the inner workings of the body.