

in the life of insects, especially as to "the seasonal appearance of pests, the years of outbreaks, and the ability of an introduced pest to survive in a new country". This calls for an intimate knowledge of many subjects as to which, as the author says, our information is limited and fragmentary.

Nothing is more noteworthy in this admirable treatise than the discrimination with which, while the existence in some cases of relevant and well-attested data is approved, their absence or insufficiency in others is admitted. We are frequently reminded, by the author's method, of Bacon's unsparing analysis of existing knowledge in his "Advancement of Learning". But it is further to be remarked that although, in the course of investigation of causes, stress is constantly laid on the importance of quantitative estimates, the author is on his guard against "a blind faith in statistical methods", which if used without due caution involve mainly a mechanical process instead of a course of reasoning prompted by the valuation on biological lines of the appropriate and relevant data.

F. A. D.

Short Reviews.

International Research Council: International Astronomical Union (Union Astronomique Internationale). Report of Commission 3: *Atlas céleste*. Par E. Delporte. Pp. 6 + 26 cartes. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1930.) 5s. net.

THE confusion caused by the rather indefinite and entirely irrational delimitation of boundaries between constellations has now been successfully attacked by the International Astronomical Union's commission on notation. No reform could be reasonably expected to ignore entirely the old traditional boundaries, or to transfer important stars into adjacent constellations, and this point has been fully recognised by the commission. The suggested scheme defines boundaries everywhere as portions either of hour circles or parallels of declination, but in such a way as to follow approximately the old boundaries. Nearly all stars with Bayer or Flamsteed designations, and all variables discovered before July 1929, remain in the constellation to which they were previously assigned.

A twofold importance attaches to this work, in that the maximum amount of rationalisation is introduced and also that the boundaries are finally standardised, since the approval of the scheme by the General Assembly of the Union makes it internationally authoritative. Delporte's excellent atlas covers the whole sky in 26 maps, showing stars down to the sixth magnitude with the new constellation boundaries. The printing is good, and the scale resembles that of Norton's atlas, although more stars are depicted than in Norton's or other similar atlases. Opposite each map is a table of all

stars down to magnitude 4.5, as well as variables, double stars, and important nebulae or clusters; giving positions for 1875 and 1925, magnitudes, and spectral types. At the end are given two charts in which are inserted the exact right ascensions or declinations of the boundaries at all points. The atlas deserves to rank high amongst others of its size, quite apart from its indispensability for purposes of reference.

Health and Education in the Nursery. By Victoria E. M. Bennett and Susan Isaacs. Pp. xiv + 308. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1931.) 6s. net.

THE scientific study of motherhood and of babyhood has made great headway in recent years, and has made possible the production of such a book as this, a book which combines simplicity of statement with accuracy of fact. Its contents were formerly published as two separate volumes, which are here expanded and united. The old-fashioned 'mother's manual' was usually written by a doctor—of course, a man—who restricted his advice to that which concerned the welfare of the body. It is a sign of the times that this book is written by two women, and that it deals at equal length with the bodily and the mental aspects of healthy growth and development.

In a sense, Miss Bennett's task was the easier, because the facts and principles of physiology and hygiene belong to the realm of positive science. Mrs. Isaacs, on the other hand, sometimes has to handle matters of opinion, as, for example, the time and manner of sex instruction for children, if it is given at all. But readers of Mrs. Isaacs' previous publications on similar subjects will be prepared to find that she is always suggestive and never dogmatic.

The Concentric Method in the Diagnosis of Psycho-neurotics. By Prof. M. Laignel-Lavastine. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. x + 217. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1931.) 10s. 6d. net.

IN the book before us, Laignel-Lavastine presents his methods of examination and treatment of the psycho-neurotic in a series of lectures which were originally delivered at La Pitié Hospital, Paris. His method consists of emphasising the manifold aspects of any case of mental disorder. It is not a case of whether this is a psychogenic or a physiogenic disorder, but how much of this disorder is psychogenic and how much is physiogenic. He describes four concentric zones with a "morbid kernel" at the centre. The zones from within, outwards, are the visceral, the endocrine, the nervous, and the psychic. In every case it is essential to investigate these zones and evaluate their respective values in etiology. His attitude towards psychotherapy is essentially that of the French school headed by Janet. For the teaching of Freud he has no great affection. To those who have confession as part of their religious creed there is no great need for Freud—so says Lavastine.