

fine and generous periodical, and will join the authors and the reviewer in offering full measure of gratitude and admiration to its enlightened publishers. But he will not willingly accept the implication, in text and bibliography of the work under review, that the eastern hemisphere ceased to contribute to the science of high frequency alternating currents in the early years of the twentieth century. Clerk Maxwell, Drude, J. J. Thomson, and Richardson do find their way into the references, but it would be chastening to feel that the most readily checked framework in the book is really "in drawing". Each chapter of the book carries at its end a very useful bibliography. These fifteen tabular bibliographies contain 121 references (some naturally duplicative, but here treated as independent). The references to American periodicals number 81, to English 1, to Continental nil. Of 39 book references, 30 are American, 6 English, 2 are to the English translation of Drude, the remaining 1 to Pedersen's remarkable work published in English *ab initio*. The gold has been re-interred; must the laurels be transplanted too?

Medical Statistics.

An Introduction to Medical Statistics. By Hilda M. Woods and William T. Russell. Pp. x+125. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 1931.) 7s. 6d.

QUITE apart from the academic consideration that vital and medical statistics now form an obligatory part of the education of students seeking the University of London's diploma in public health, the demand for information about the methods of vital and medical statistics is increasing. The most casual reader of the newspapers is now aware that population problems are of serious practical importance and that the publications of the General Register Office cannot be ignored. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the recently issued preliminary report on the census of 1931 is one of the most sensational documents which has appeared for years, and that he who reads it intelligently will understand what is meant by saying that civilisation is in the melting pot.

In order to read vital-statistical documents intelligently, some technical training is required. Published manuals tend to fall between two stools; either they bewilder the ordinary reader with mathematical formulæ or they are couched in dogmatic terms which irritate him. Miss Woods

and Mr. Russell have avoided both these dangers. They make no claim to provide a complete treatise on statistical methodology, and, at the outset, warn the reader that he must consult larger books if he wishes to become a fully equipped statistician. But, within the compass of 125 pages and without dogmatism, they have given information quite adequate to enable the reader to peruse with understanding *any* official report on vital or medical statistics.

The first two chapters deal with the nature of the original material and its tabulation. These are followed by a short but sensible chapter on charts and diagrams. The next two chapters discuss estimates of population and the measurement of birth and death rates. The following four chapters are of a more general character, but the illustrations are drawn from vital-statistical data. The next chapter is a clear account of the principles involved in the construction of a life table, and the last expounds the root idea involved in the determination of a 'probable error'.

Here and there the printer has failed to cope with a subscript notation, but on the whole the format is good and the reader should have no difficulty in following the exposition. This book deserves a wide circulation. M. GREENWOOD.

Short Reviews.

- (1) *Race as a Political Factor.* By Prof. J. W. Gregory. (Conway Memorial Lecture delivered at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, on April 15, 1931.) Pp. 72. (London: Watts and Co., 1931.) 2s. net.
- (2) *Race Mixture: Studies in Inter-marriage and Miscegenation.* By E. B. Reuter. (Whittlesey House Publication.) Pp. vii+224. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1931.) 12s. 6d. net.

EACH of these two books deals, though from very different points of view, with the question of the effects of contact between two or more races differing in physical character and in culture—a problem which to-day is probably of more importance for the future of the world than any other with which public policy is concerned in the countries affected.

(1) Prof. Gregory's Conway lecture has the practical end very directly in view. His remedy for the present situation and the avoidance of greater danger in the future is segregation of the inferior race. His argument is that otherwise social absorption is inevitable in present conditions; and the product of crossing races so diverse as black, white, and brown, so far as we are able to judge from the biological evidence, is likely to be of an inferior type. Further, in communities in which white and coloured live side by side, the