

versity students and candidates for university scholarships and the National Certificate in Chemistry, the book contains much matter which will be of interest to many chemists.

Mr. Fowles has been at considerable pains to expound the principles upon which volumetric analysis is based, so that in carrying out the determinations the student will be consciously applying these principles and not merely performing a set of experiments without regard to the physico-chemical theories involved.

The first two chapters are devoted to general principles, and include much information on equivalents, indicators, calibration, and the selection of substances as standards. The next four chapters deal with the various methods of volumetric determinations—neutralisation, in which the theory of indicators is discussed; oxidation by permanganate, dichromate, bromate, and iodate; reduction by titanous sulphate; iodometry; and precipitation. The final chapter takes the form of a synopsis, and contains the volumetric processes for the estimation of all common metals, acid radicals, and many organic compounds.

Embodying, as this book does, the recent advances in volumetric analysis, it is a very useful addition to chemical literature.

*Why we Oppose the Occult.* By Prof. Émile Cailliet. (Translated by Prof. G. F. Cole. Pp. v + 200. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1931.) 8s. 6d. net.

To the modern mind the very word 'magic' stands for an idea which is little short of degrading. Yet we have to remember that, according to high authorities, magic was the real foundation of religion, the most divine creeds having belief in magic as their basis. Furthermore, the ancient Oriental magicians passed on their accumulated observations to the Greeks, enabling the latter to lay the foundations of mathematics, so that magic may be said to be the origin of science—of science through the intermediary of religion, as Frazer shows. But societies which thus owe so much to magic not only free themselves from it, but also vigorously reject it, turning from the occult with disgust. In our own day the occult is the object, not merely of disbelief, but also of active opposition and ridicule. Why? That is the problem to which Prof. Cailliet addresses himself in this book, with many examples drawn from his intimate knowledge of beliefs and practices in Madagascar.

*Physics: Fundamental Laws and Principles with Problems and Worked Solutions.* By Edgar Booth and Phyllis M. Nicol. Pp. 648. (Glebe, N.S.W.: Australasian Medical Publishing Co., Ltd., 1932.) n.p.

THIS volume, which is of a good intermediate standard, is divided into two main sections. The first part consists of thirty-six chapters, and expounds the fundamental principles and laws of physics in a series of clear statements which are driven home by means of a large number of illus-

trative problems, of a mixed bookwork and rider type.

The second part consists of answers to and worked solutions of the problems given in the first part.

The whole book bears evidence of much care and thought in its preparation; it should prove a useful aid in testing and co-ordinating the knowledge of a student of elementary physics.

*The Doctor Explains.* By Ralph H. Major. Pp. xvi + 277 + 27 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1932.) 15s. net.

It would be difficult to present a more interesting and comprehensive account of progressive medical science and practice than that covered by this book. The author succeeds brilliantly in his endeavour to explain in untechnical language how the methods of treatment and diagnosis employed by modern physicians and surgeons are the results of research in many scientific fields, and his work should do much to promote intelligent interest in the preventive as well as the curative services of medicine. The book is an inspiring record of human thought and action towards the conquest of disease, and it will be read with both profit and pleasure not only by the laity but also by many general medical practitioners.

*Hippokratesglossare.* Von Max Wellmann. (Quellen und Studien zur Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und der Medizin, herausgegeben vom Institut für Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften, redigiert von P. Diepgen und J. Ruska, Band 2.) Pp. iv + 88. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1931.) 16 gold marks.

THIS learned memoir is a valuable addition to the history of the sources of the Hippocratic commentators. The main point of its author is that Erotian, who wrote a glossary on the Hippocratic works during Nero's reign, was not a grammarian, but a physician. Then he goes on to discuss the sources of Erotian, and to compare previous glossaries of the Hippocratic works with them. The glossary of Bakcheios, who published the first edition of the Hippocratic works, was superseded later by the commentaries of Glaukias, Epikles, Heraclides of Tarentum, and Euphoriion the Grammarian.

*Die lichtelektrische Zelle und ihre Herstellung.* Von Dr. Richard Fleischer und Dr. Horst Teichmann. Mit einer Einführung von Prof. Dr. H. Dember. (Wissenschaftliche Forschungsberichte, Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe, herausgegeben von Dr. Raphael Ed. Liesegang, Band 27.) Pp. xii + 175. (Dresden und Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff, 1932.) 12 gold marks.

THIS unpretentious little volume gives, in compact and handy form, a very clear conspectus of the properties and methods of production of light-sensitive cells. It is well produced and illustrated, and its usefulness is enhanced by a critical bibliography of some 230 entries, ranging over the years 1877–1931.