probable inhabitants. The lakes are classified according to the amount and quality of food they can produce and these again are sub-divided. A regular order of these waters is now established so that one can foretell to a large extent what kind of plants and animals inhabit any lake. An enormous amount of work still remains to be done and this is an important addition to the literature of the subject.

Partridge Disease and its Causes, including the Report and Suggestions of the Country Life Committee of Enquiry into the Diseases of Partridges during the Season 1931-1932. Edited by Major M. Portal and Dr. Walter E. Collinge. Pp. ix+96+7 plates. (London: Country Life, Ltd., 1932.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE prevalence of a new or hitherto unrecognised disease amongst partridges, which caused heavy mortality during the earlier winter months of 1931, brought about the formation of a *Country Life* committee of inquiry, under the chairmanship of Major M. Portal and with the assistance of Dr. W. E. Collinge as pathologist. While partridges are subject to several fatal diseases, the special features of this epidemic were loss of weight, reluctance of the bird to feed, congestion of the cæca, stomach invariably empty; and the cause was found to be a nematode parasite, *Trichostrongylus tenuis*, harbouring in thousands in the cæca. The life-history of the strongyle has been worked out: it has been found to be spread with the fæces, from which the larvæ swarm up blades of vegetation, with which they are engulfed by other partridges. Although no wild bird seems to be concerned in the distribution of the parasite, earthworms are very frequent carriers of both eggs and larvæ. Any factor which weakens the resistance of partridges predisposes to fatal attack, and amongst such factors the Committee suspects interbreeding, overcrowding in winter, insufficient food, and unfavourable weather conditions. Some of these may be associated, as several replies to a questionnaire issued by the Committee suggest, with modern conditions of farming and roads. Special chapters have been written by experts upon methods of feeding and breeding, so that there has been gathered together in this volume a body of observations and information which no owner of partridge land can afford to ignore.

Rhenium (Opyt monografii elementa No. 75). By E. S. Kronman. Pp. 85. (Moscow and Leningrad: N. K. T. P. The Gold and Platinum Institute, 1932.) 1r. 25k.

MENDELEEFF'S *dwi-manganese* was discovered in 1925 and the name rhenium assigned to it by W. and I. Noddack has become accepted. Since its discovery, rhenium has been the subject of more than a hundred scientific communications and Dr. Kronman's Russian monograph follows closely upon Mr. P. M. Tyler's "Rhenium (and Masurium)" issued as an information circular by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and Dr. W. Schröter's

"Das Rhenium", both of which appeared about two years ago.

This latest work is the most comprehensive, including as it does as complete an account of the geochemistry, isolation, chemistry and physics of the new element as the author has been able to ascertain from the publications accessible to him. He has been somewhat dependent upon abstracts in the *Chemisches Zentralblatt* for the non-German contributions to the subject (including the letters in *NATURE* during 1925 *et seq.*). He has, nevertheless, omitted very little of importance and it is therefore regrettable that this monograph, being in Russian, is inaccessible to all but a few chemists and others who are interested in the new element.

J. G. F. DRUCE.

Architectural Graphic Standards: for Architects, Engineers, Decorators, Builders and Draftsmen. By Charles George Ramsey and Harold Reeve Sleeper. Pp. ix+233. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1932.) 37s. 6d. net.

IN recalling the important buildings upon which architects and their assistants worked in bygone years, it does not seem as if the elaborate 'simplicity', claimed for this book, is required. Specifications and details were prepared in those days with an assurance and success, which no mere "graphic and diagrammatic assembly of data, standards and information" would have produced. If this book may be regarded as supplying between two covers a large amount of valuable information for students, it is well, though greater simplicity might be desired. It may be seriously doubted whether any practising architect in Great Britain would be troubled with this, or any similar, work. It would not be proper to criticise American building methods unfavourably because they differ from English methods; suffice it to note, that the authors have shown their knowledge and have exercised their skill and ungrudging labour in the preparation of the book.

P. L. M.

Kamet Conquered. By F. S. Smythe. Pp. xvi+420+48 plates. (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1932.) 16s. net.

SEVERAL attempts had been made on Kamet before Mr. Smythe's successful expedition of 1931; so long ago as 1912 Mr. C. F. Meade discovered the best line of approach from the east by which he reached the mountain in the following year and gained an altitude of 23,500 ft., or less than two thousand feet short of the summit. Mr. Smythe's party used the same route by the East Kamet Glacier and Meade's col, reaching the top, 25,447 ft., with some difficulty but without accident. This volume, however, is more than a mere record of this and other climbs in the Himalayas. It contains a discussion of many of the problems of mountaineering, material, physiological and psychological. These reflections from an experienced climber are of great value and make the book of real use to future expeditions.