Marie Stopes: her Work and Play. By Aylmer Maude. Authorised edition. Pp. 299+8 plates. (London: Peter Davies, Ltd., 1933.) 8*s*. 6*d*. net.

DR. MARIE STOPES is a remarkable woman; and if she were unaware of the significance of her work and influence, Mr. Aylmer Maude's book could not fail to enlighten her. It is not given to many workers in the realm of science—natural or social—to have their biographies published during their lifetime; so that Dr. Marie Stopes is fortunate in this respect and also in her biographer, whose literary gifts enable him to present a pleasing portrait of his subject.

Dr. Stopes's scientific work in palæobotany, the composition and structure of coal, and related subjects, belongs to the first rank and has both scientific interest and practical value. The general public knows nothing of her eminence in these fields and associates her name only with the subjects of birth control and problems of sex. For the enlightened view now taken of these matters by most people, the chief thanks are due to Dr. Stopes, whose work marks a new epoch in the life of the community. Mr. Maude is evidently an ardent disciple of this pioneer of social hygiene and intelligent reproduction of the human species; and on this account we ought perhaps to overlook the exalted position in which he sometimes places her. Several of the chapters might have been abridged with advantage, but on the whole the book is a faithful record of Dr. Stopes's activities in many directions.

Elements of Optical Mineralogy: an Introduction to Microscopic Petrography. By Prof. Alexander N. Winchell. Third edition. Part 2: *Descriptions of Minerals, with Special Reference to their Optic and Microscopic Characters.* Pp. xviii+459. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1933.) 37*s*. 6*d*. net.

THE general arrangement of the third edition of Pt. 2 of Winchell's "Elements" remains broadly the same as in earlier editions. Advances in knowledge of the relations between the optical properties and chemical composition of crystals, especially those affecting the amphibole group, have been incorporated in the text.

An important change has, however, been made in the chapter on the silicates, which occupies more than half of the book. This large group of minerals has been re-classified, so far as is at present possible, on the basis of the results obtained in recent years from X-ray crystal analysis. This change-over, with its subordination of chemical composition to crystal structure, is of the greatest theoretical interest. In effect it summarises the results of all the work done on the silicates in recent years.

This is an invaluable work for students and research workers in mineralogy and petrography. It is therefore unfortunate that the slight increase in size of the latest edition should be accompanied by so very considerable an increase in price.

The Official Year-Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland: with a Record of Publications issued during Session 1932–1933. Compiled from Official Sources: Fiftieth Annual Issue. Pp. viii+171. (London: Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 10*s*. net.

THE publishers of this Year-Book are to be congratulated on their enterprise, for the present year marks the jubilee of its issue. There can be no question that the existence of such an annual volume has promoted the interests of science generally and of the societies with which it deals, by providing accurate details of the numerous scientific bodies in the British Isles. The present issue is on the usual lines; the various societies are classified into 14 groups. The officers, membership, dates of meetings, and publications of each society, institute, etc., are given, and in many cases further details, such as the objects of the society, are appended. A good index, and a logical grouping of the societies make it quite easy to refer to any society. All information incorporated in the volume is compiled from official sources; it is, indeed, a work of ready reference, worthy of support by scientific societies.

Modern Theories of Development: an Introduction to Theoretical Biology. By Ludwig von Bertalanffy. Translated and adapted by J. H. Woodger. Pp. x+204. (London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 8*s*. 6*d*. net.

THIS important introduction to theoretical embryology is well-known to all those interested in the subject. The English translation and adaptation by Dr. Woodger will make it available to a wider circle of readers. The author proposes as a solution to the crisis of present-day biology, the constitution of a purified science which would relate and explain the accumulated facts pertaining to the study of living organisms. As a synthetic principle of this science, the author proposes an organismic theory which would aim at the establishment of the laws of biological systems based on experimental data and on the possible use of mathematical logic.

Examination of McTaggart's Philosophy. Vol. 1. By Dr. C. D. Broad. Pp. lvi+460. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933.) 21*s*. net.

ONE cannot do justice in a few sentences to this excellent commentary of McTaggart's philosophy. Not only is McTaggart himself a great philosophical mind, but Dr. Broad, his commentator, compels the attention of his readers whenever he writes about philosophy. McTaggart's "Nature of Existence" is a difficult book to study. But its reading will perhaps become easier after perusal of the present commentary. With a wealth of detail and a great ingenuity of thought, Dr. Broad shows us how McTaggart's analysis of existence and reality led him to the formulation of the principle of determining correspondence, and what masterly use he made of this principle in the explanation of metaphysical values. T. G.