

- (1) *Basic German for Science Students. With Vocabulary and English translations of the German Passages.* By Dr. M. L. Barker. Pp. xi+164. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin Marshall, Ltd., 1933.) 6s. net.
- (2) *The Basis and Essentials of German: containing all that must be known of Grammar and Vocabulary in order to express the most frequently recurring Ideas.* By Charles Duff and Richard Freund. Pp. xix+113. (London: Desmond Harmsworth, Ltd., 1933.) 3s. 6d. net.
- (3) *A German Reader for Biology Students: Passages from Recent German Scientific Publications.* Selected and arranged by Prof. H. G. Fiedler and Dr. G. R. de Beer. With a Vocabulary by Herma E. Fiedler. Pp. vi+92. (London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 5s.

(1) In twenty-four pages, Dr. Barker crowds in the essentials of German grammar in tabloid form and as footnotes to selected passages from the Bible. The rest of the book gives general passages from scientific works in German with English translations, and more technical selections referring to chemistry, zoology, botany, physics, mathematics and medicine. Unfortunately, only one English rendering is generally given to a German word, although it often has other equally important significations.

(2) Equally useful for the general reader is the book by Messrs. Duff and Freund. Though they give the minimum of grammar, however, they stress the importance of the vocabulary, which is selected and presented in such a way as to cause the least difficulty to an English reader. The authors have compiled a large number of German books, noting down the words which occur more often and drawing statistical lists of them. They selected for their book those with the highest coefficient, and divided them between those which are similar to their English equivalent, and those which are different. Some sound guiding principles here and there help the reader to understand the use and memorise whole lists of words.

(3) The work compiled by Prof. Fiedler and Dr. de Beer is simply a selected series of passages from recent German scientific literature, supplemented by an appropriate vocabulary. This reader is intended to be used by students of biology as a supplement to a "First German Course" by Prof. Fiedler and F. F. Sandbach.

*The Laboratory Workshop: a Simple Course in Apparatus Making and the Use of Tools.* By E. H. Duckworth and R. Harries. Pp. xi+246. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1933.) 10s. net.

THIS book contains information necessary to the man who has what Dewar called "the use of his hands", but who has not had workshop training, and is thus penalised in much loss of time and endeavour when setting himself to make and mend models, instruments and apparatus. Here also can one learn what materials are most serviceable,

and how they are described, and where obtained; what are the most useful tools; and many suggestions, by the way, about the value of second-hand oddments and out-of-the-way uses for common things; also valuable sections on glass-working and electrical wiring, with much more of the lore of an experienced laboratory assistant. All this is made plain by a large number of clear drawings, over which much labour must have been spent. On the other hand, of the two photographs comparing an attic workshop with one for a laboratory, uncertainty may be felt whether to admire the attic or be uneasy about the laboratory; partly no doubt because the detail available is insufficiently informing. Many examples have been included of actual constructions of demonstration apparatus and models.

One lack that will almost certainly be felt, however, is the determined omission of even simple lathe work: it is not easy to understand how anybody in a position fully to utilise the help of this book will be satisfied without the service of at least a simple form of lathe. No doubt a later edition will include this extension, since a knowledge of the proper use of the ordinary cutters is not easy to obtain.

W. J. G.

*A Retired Habitation: a History of the Retreat, York (Mental Hospital).* By H. C. Hunt. With a Foreword by Dr. B. Pierce and a Chapter by Dr. N. Macleod. Pp. xvi+144+12 plates. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1932.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE man in the street and the educated layman are extraordinarily uninformed on the subject of the care and treatment of the mentally afflicted, so that it is very interesting to read the history of "The Retreat, York", a title which is very familiar to many. The title "A Retired Habitation" is, we think, a great mistake, for it does not convey any indication of the contents of the book, especially when those contents consist of the history of a very great and humane undertaking.

Mr. Capper Hunt, the steward at "The Retreat", has given us a very simple and readable account of the development of this registered hospital for the treatment of mental disorder, but we could have wished that he had made it much fuller and given greater detail.

Nevertheless, it is a fascinating story and very well presented. The extraordinary kindness and consideration shown to the mental patients in the far off days of the early nineteenth century by the nursing staff appointed by the Friends are an object lesson to many of the twentieth century. The same spirit has always prevailed, and to-day the standard of nursing at "The Retreat" is second to none, and to the late Dr. Bedford Pierce the modern mental nurse may well be very grateful for all he did to secure the "one portal" entry by examination to the State Nursing Service. The book is very well presented and the illustrations excellent.