Eilean Mor where there is a lighthouse. All are formed of horneblende gneiss intersected by pegmatite veins and all probably came under the influence of the quaternary ice, for many fragments of alien rock have been found on each. Sgeir has a gannetry with a population of 8,000 to the south of the island, its other birds consisting of as many razorbills and guillemots as well as puffins, kittiwakes, shags and fulmar; as on all such bird islands, vegetation is very scanty. The islands are visited every year from Lewis, Sgeir for young gannets and eggs, the others mainly for the fattening of a certain number of sheep transported from Lewis.

Formerly, all would appear to have been inhabited, for they have the remains of unmortared stone houses. These were half-sunk into the ground at Rona and were entered by crawling along passages. Often large slabs of stone were used, and these would appear to have been turfed over, the only roof-opening being the smoke hole. There is also the remains of a chapel at Rona, now scheduled as a monument. The author is not much interested, but the houses described as known to have been recently inhabited are very strikingly like the dolmen of Locmariaquer and Carnac and many other regions. In conclusion, there is a short bibliography, but there is clearly a field here for the trained archæologist.

Gas Analysis: by Measurement of Thermal Conductivity. By Dr. H. A. Daynes. Pp. viii+357. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933.) 16*s*. net.

THE method is based on the discovery by Andrews in 1840 that changes in the composition of gas surrounding an electrically-heated wire are reflected in changes in the electrical resistance of the wire, and may therefore be measured on a suitably calibrated electrical instrument. Thanks largely to the developmental work of Shakespear and the Cambridge Instrument Co. in England, as well as to that of certain firms in Germany and the United States, it has now attained the status of a recognised industrial method, and as such is well worthy of a monograph to itself.

The author is an authority on the subject, and his treatment of the theory, technique and applications of the method is all that could be desired. The applications include flue- and fuel-gas control and measurements in connexion with the production of liquid air, gas permeability, for example, leakage through rubber and aircraft fabrics, nitrogen fixation, etc. On account of the suitability of their thermal properties, carbon dioxide and hydrogen are frequently mentioned, and a number of useful indirect methods are described for the determination of other gases in terms of these.

Possibilities of the method in academic research, for example, in physiology, are also indicated, and it is no exaggeration to state that there is something of interest here for every scientific worker, whatever his sphere and even if he is already using the method. J. G.

The Gyroscopic Stabilization of Land Vehicles. By Dr. J. F. S. Ross. Pp. vii+172. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1933.) 14*s*. net.

THIS book consists of a thesis approved for the degree of Ph.D. in the University of London, and it gives the results of an investigation undertaken with the following objects: "(i) To determine whether monorail traction is scientifically sound and definitely practicable; (ii) To show why the efforts of inventors have hitherto only met with partial success; and (iii) To place the whole subject on a more scientific footing and to give it a more complete and orderly treatment than it had yet received".

The text is, like most original papers, not easy to read; there are many places where the development would have been greatly enhanced by the insertion of explanatory paragraphs. An excellent summary of the author's conclusions with references to the text is given at the end, together with a full bibliography and list of patents.

The Flora of the Liverpool District. Edited by C. Theodore Green. Pp. xi+163+201 plates. (Arbroath: T. Buncle and Co., 1933.)

DR. C. T. GREEN, the editor, thirty years ago, of the first edition of the "Liverpool Flora", is to be congratulated on the completion of this new and revised edition, also under his editorship.

The general plan of this well-known flora remains unchanged. Miss Wood's admirable line drawings, which express the 'look' of each plant in a most remarkable way, are still one of its most attractive features, though their reproduction is noticeably inferior in this edition. The chief innovation is the inclusion of five special articles on areas of particular interest, such as the Southport sand dunes, with notes on their topography and flora, illustrated by photographs. There are other small alterations, while, of course, a number of additional localities and records are given. It is a volume which should be in the possession of all interested in this botanically rich area of Lancashire.

Human Values in Psychological Medicine. By Dr. C. P. Blacker. (Oxford Medical Publications.) Pp. viii+179. (London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 8*s*. 6*d*. net.

THE author defines pivotal values as those which, in one way or another, unify and justify life, give it coherence and make it on the whole worth living. His conception of pivotal values is the really dominant idea of his book. After a number of chapters devoted to the discussion of values from a psychological point of view, the author studies the clinical aspects of the problem. He found that æsthetic values play a small part in the lives of working-class patients. He divides pivotal values into values which are neither religious nor philosophical. We are inclined to disagree with the statement that the majority of hospital patients have no "pivotal values". There are few people who have no pivotal values if only they can be touched on.