

"the patient researches of those who sought no personal reward", and in illustrating and explaining the major problems which must be solved before a laboratory discovery can be successfully translated to a large-scale process. As director and associate director of research to the Bakelite Corporation, the authors have had ample opportunity of realising the advantages which result from sustained investigations, so they do not hesitate to preach research to those who are more interested in its exploitation than in its promotion. It is a stimulating book, and deserves to be widely read.

W. H. B.

*Modern Coffee Planting.* By E. G. Windle. Pp. xi+232. (London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., n.d.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE author of this book is a planter of more than fifty years' experience in the coffee districts of South India. His experience thus dates from the days when coffee was grown without shade, before the disease *Hemileia vastatrix* levied such a heavy toll on this industry in the East. The book is addressed to planters and is based on personal experience and observation. It is seldom that one has the privilege of reading a book on a particular crop written by one who has made it his life study and has at the same time earned his livelihood from it. Though written primarily for the coffee districts of South India, where coffee has been grown since the seventeenth century, the book should prove of great value to other coffee-growing countries, especially those where the industry is comparatively young. Local conditions vary from one country to another, but knowledge of a particular crop which has been acquired by experience will always prove useful elsewhere to anyone who makes an intelligent study of it.

The dedication of this book to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore "in grateful acknowledgment of the benefit to the Coffee Industry resulting from the establishment of the Coffee Experiment Station at Balehonnur" is welcome evidence that the author has put into practice the results of research to his own benefit.

*Constitution and Health.* By Prof. Raymond Pearl. (Psyche Miniatures: General Series, No. 60.) Pp. 97+5 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 2s. 6d. net.

THIS little book is an expansion of a lecture given at the Army Medical Centre, Washington. It discusses the problems of the human constitution with the author's usual lucidity of style, taking the view that the constitution of an individual is determined not only by his genetic inheritance but also by the exigencies of his lifetime, such as the infections to which his body may have reacted, producing immunity. The constitution of an individual is therefore subject to change throughout his history, and statistical treatments are necessary to determine the inter-relationships involved in the series of complex variables, anatomical, physiological, psychological and pathological, which

characterise a human being. The asthenic and pycnic types are regarded as merely extremes in a continuous series. Dysplastic or asymmetrical types also occur, having, for example, legs of one somatological type and trunk of another. Such may be regarded as a coarse form of mosaic inheritance. All the general modern biological interpretations are touched upon.

*Islands of the West.* By Seton Gordon. Pp. xv+211+47 plates. (London, Toronto, Melbourne and Sydney: Cassell and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 15s. net.

DESCRIPTIVE books on Scotland, even of the west of Scotland, have appeared in unusual numbers during the last few years, most pitching their appeal to the alien tourist. The book before us is not a guide book to the western isles, but a series of essays dealing with one and another aspect of the islands and their life, human and animal, from Skye and the St. Kilda group to Ailsa Craig, and wandering beyond these bounds to Scilly and Connemara. Yet we doubt if any other book can convey so vividly to the mind of the reader the loneliness and pathos, as well as the *camaraderie*, of existence upon these outliers of civilisation. The result is partly due to the fine word-pictures of the islands and their people, but also to the way in which myth and tradition have been interpolated to illustrate a mental outlook which belongs to the past; and, as one would expect, there is much said about the wild life of the places the author has taken such pains to visit. The book is illustrated by striking and beautiful photographs.

*Die Faden-Elektrometer.* Von Theodor Wulf. Pp. 147. (Berlin und Bonn: Ferd. Dümmler, 1933.) 6 gold marks.

IT is useful to have such a complete account of the string electrometers. Although the theory relates to electrometers in general, the greater part of the book deals with string electrometers. Their construction, use and calibration are described in great detail. The double-string electrometer is treated first and the single-string second. In the latter case is a first account of the attainment of enhanced sensitiveness by using such potentials and distances between plates that the string is approaching an unstable condition. The measurement and effect of the capacity of the instrument are described at length.

*Cours de mécanique rationnelle.* (Cours de la Faculté des Sciences de Paris.) Par Jean Chazy. Tome 2: *Dynamique des systèmes matériels.* Pp. vi+460. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie, 1933.) 80 francs.

THIS volume takes the reader through the mechanics of systems, following the work of the earlier volume on the dynamics of point bodies. The two volumes together form a course which will supply the university student's need up to the stage required for the degree in mathematics.