

those who hitherto have shown a tendency to pay too exclusive an attention to archæological evidence. It was M. Hubert's opinion that anthropology, that is, the study of physical characters in their racial aspect, can give little assistance; and it is a special merit of his study that he insists repeatedly on the distinction between 'a race', which the Celts were not, and 'a people', which they were, in the sense of a number of groups more or less closely related in a common culture and language. In the use of linguistic evidence also he is careful to point out its limitations in arguments on races and peoples.

The present volume gives only one half of the story, carrying it up to the Hallstatt period. La Tène and the general characteristics of Celtic culture will be considered in the later volume.

*Geschichte der gegorenen Getränke.* Von Prof. Dr. A. Maurizio. Pp. viii+262. (Berlin: Paul Parey, 1933.) 18 gold marks.

THOSE who hope to glean from the pages of this book authoritative information on modern methods of the manufacture of alcoholic liquors or to learn something about recent theories of fermentation will be disappointed, for it is written mainly from the historical point of view. It is, however, a veritable encyclopædia of interesting facts relating to fermented beverages from the earliest times to the present day, and from the numerous references quoted, must have involved considerable industry and literary research. Not only are the history and geographical distribution of the more common liquors, for example, beer and wine, fully described, but similar details are given relating to lesser known beverages, such as mead, spruce beer, koumiss and various berry and herb wines. There are also sections dealing with potato spirits and distillation, the latter being illustrated with interesting drawings of primitive distilling vessels.

In addition to the account of the beverages themselves, the value of the book is enhanced by the inclusion of references to the basic materials—honey, sugar, herbs, grapes, malt, hops, fruits—and to the different implements such as the wine press, used in the production of the various beverages. The book concludes with a systematic catalogue of a large number of plants from which fermented beverages have been obtained.

A. J. H. G.

*A Text-Book of Inorganic Chemistry.* By Prof. Dr. Fritz Ephraim. English edition by Dr. P. C. L. Thorne. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. xii+873. (London and Edinburgh: Gurney and Jackson, 1934.) 28s. net.

THE success of the first English edition of this textbook, published in 1926, has justified the preparation of an up-to-date version. Based upon the fourth German edition, the new issue contains also a good deal of supplementary matter supplied by Prof. Ephraim and incorporated in the English text by Dr. Thorne. The general plan of the work,

including the headings of sections and chapters, remains unaltered. The revision has entailed an increase of about 8 per cent in the bulk of the book, and in the opinion of the reviewer a further expansion in future editions should be avoided. Although by reason of its unusual plan it appears in some respects as predominantly a textbook of the non-metals (see NATURE, 119, 7, Jan. 1, 1927), the work has proved to be attractive and useful to students who have already secured a grounding in the subject, and the new edition will be welcomed.

*Sexual Regulations and Human Behaviour.* By Dr. J. D. Unwin. Pp. xv+108. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1933.) 7s. 6d. net.

DR. UNWIN has made an inductive study of the effect of sexual repression and its relation to progress in human societies, of which this volume is a preliminary statement. He has taken eighty societies under review, classifying them according to status as determined by certain characters. He finds that the place of each in this grouping agrees with the degree to which pre-nuptial sexual relations are subjected to repression; and in a final chapter he rapidly surveys the history of civilisation, showing that decadence has invariably followed the relaxation of sexual regulation. While it is more than probable that Dr. Unwin is right, he has made out a case for further investigation rather than proved his contention. No doubt the fuller treatment promised will strengthen the argument.

*Physical Mechanics: an Intermediate Text for Students of the Physical Sciences.* By Prof. R. B. Lindsay. (University Physics Series.) Pp. x+436. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1933.) 21s. net.

THE vector method is followed in this book, and the treatment which usually ends with the mechanical properties of matter is continued to cover the kinetic theory of gases using the virial, the Bohr atom,  $\alpha$ -particle deflection, electrical oscillations and wave mechanics. The author's aim has been to make mechanics an introduction to advanced physics, in which he has succeeded admirably.

*An Introductory Course of Mechanics.* By E. G. Phillips. Pp. viii+255. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE book opens with a short account of vector analysis, going as far as scalar multiplication and the differentiation of vectors. The vector method of representation is kept to the fore throughout. In this respect it has an advantage over the older books on mechanics, but the mathematics is of a higher order than that acquired by the average student at the time of beginning the study of mechanics. However, the book will be of value to many students for the clearness of the treatment and the comprehensive set of examples.