

*Annual Reports on the Progress of Chemistry for 1933.* Vol. 30. Pp. 462. (London: The Chemical Society, 1934.) 10s. 6d.

THE series of reports for 1933 deals with general and physical, inorganic, organic, and analytical chemistry, biochemistry, radioactivity and sub-atomic phenomena, and crystallography, and forms a substantial contribution to the literature of the science. As in former years, the plan adopted is to discuss progress in a limited number of special subjects rather than to attempt a comprehensive survey, a task which would indeed be impossible within the accepted limits of space and cost. Thus, for example, Mr. R. P. Bell discusses solubility and related phenomena, Mr. J. H. Wolfenden's section on electrochemistry is confined to 'heavy hydrogen', the structure of water, and the mechanism of hydrogen and oxygen electrode processes, and in the biochemistry section space is devoted to a review of progress in the biochemistry of bacteria during the past three or four years. Analytical chemistry is represented by discussions of the polarographic, spectroscopic, and magneto-optic methods, the physical properties of solutions, an extended account of electrometric methods, and a section on gas analysis. Dr. A. S. Russell examines, *inter alia*, advances in artificial disintegration and the positive electron, whilst Dr. G. A. R. Kon discusses in some detail the considerations which have recently led to the establishment of the main structural outlines of the sterols and bile acids.

Among research chemists this series of annual reports is recognised as providing extremely valuable and authoritative surveys; among teachers of chemistry it is regarded as affording the best means of keeping abreast of modern developments. Workers in related sciences, although not requiring to make a study of every chapter, will nevertheless find in this book a great deal of valuable information and explanation, some of which may prove of prime significance in their own researches.

A. A. E.

(1) *Pink Disease (Infantile Acrodynia)*. By Dr. Ch. Rocaz. Translated by Dr. Ian Jeffreys Wood. Pp. v+153.

(2) *Infantilism*. By Dr. E. Apert. Translated by Dr. R. W. B. Ellis. Pp. v+117+4 plates. (London: Martin Hopkinson, Ltd., 1933.) 7s. 6d. net each.

THE translation into English of these two French monographs provides interesting and valuable additions to medical literature.

(1) "Pink Disease" is the title given to Dr. I. J. Wood's translation of "L'Acrodynie Infantile", which is a comprehensive survey of an illness the obscure nature of which is indicated by the numerous names it has received. A full historical, clinical and pathological review is given, and the conclusion is reached that the disease is an inflammation of the nervous system closely allied to epidemic encephalitis. It is probably extremely rare in Great Britain, but its apparent

tendency to occur in small outbreaks makes it important that physicians should have some knowledge of it. The long bibliography included provides references for those who wish to make a detailed study of the subject.

(2) "Infantilism" describes in detail the many varieties of the well-known state of retarded development, and includes a chapter on the less familiar condition of regression after mature development known as Gandy's retrograde infantilism. As textbooks of neurology and pediatrics make but scanty reference to these disorders, and offer little or no therapeutic indications, it is significant to find a whole chapter of this book devoted to treatment.

Both monographs are particularly well illustrated.

*The Method and Theory of Ethnology: an Essay in Criticism*. By Paul Radin. Pp. xv+278. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1933.) 15s. net.

ETHNOLOGY is defined by Dr. Paul Radin as the description of aboriginal culture, and the object of this essay in ethnological criticism is to show how far the various schools of thought fail to attain the object of the study. The 'evolutionary' school, of which Tylor is regarded as the founder and the chief exponent, as might be expected, is sharply criticised for various reasons, of which the principal is that it regarded the study of primitive peoples as an evolution of culture and also looked upon its material as representing a phase anterior to that of civilised man of to-day. Hence the theory of survivals. Other schools, the 'diffusionists', the 'functionalists', and in America the followers of Prof. Boas, are alike criticised from the point of view of the author that ethnology is a purely historical science, and that as such it must treat each phase and manifestation of culture as individual.

*Chemistry and Physics: for Botany and Biology Students*. By Dr. E. R. Spratt. Second edition. Pp. vii+284. (London: University Tutorial Press, Ltd., 1933.) 3s. 6d.

THIS up-to-date little book is designed, in particular, to include the sections on elementary chemistry and physics in the syllabuses of botany and biology of the Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate examinations, and emphasises the applications of physical and chemical phenomena to plant and animal life. The second edition has been revised and extended to deal with magnetism and electricity, light, electrolytic dissociation and hydrogen ion concentration, the structure of the atom and valency.

It can be recommended without reserve to students as indicated in its title, and should, in addition, meet the needs of students in general or of classes requiring a sound and inexpensive course in general science.

N. M. B.