playmates for nine months, being treated in every way as nearly as possible alike, and they became great friends. A very detailed study was made of their sensory and motor capacities, their power of learning, their rate of maturation. The little ape showed herself surprisingly intelligent, though not quite up to the level of the child; in some respects, as in muscular strength and co-ordination, she was the child's superior, due in part to her more rapid rate of development. Simple things she learned more rapidly than the child, probably for the same reason.

A detailed comparison with the behaviour of an ape brought up in the normal way is unfortunately not given, but it is clear that Gua was considerably affected and stimulated to higher flights by her new and exciting psychological environment. "It is clearly in defence of the capacities of the animal that the results of the present research are most significant. They strongly suggest that, if given sufficient opportunity, the animal subject may considerably outdo himself, particularly if he belongs at a high level in the biological scale" (p. 322). There is a vast amount of useful material in the book for the student of child and anthropoid psychology.

E. S. R.

A Text-Book of Inorganic Chemistry. Edited by Dr. J. Newton Friend. (Griffin's Scientific Text-Books.) Vol. 6, Part 2: *Phosphorus.* By Dr. Edmund B. R. Prideaux. Pp. xxviii+238. (London: Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1934.) 18*s.* net.

THE part of Friend's "Text-Book of Inorganic Chemistry" which deals with phosphorus and its compounds has been written by Dr. Prideaux on similar lines to those in which the other elements have been described, and maintains the characteristic features of the series. This statement implies that the book is traditional rather than modern in its methods and outlook, and is therefore of more value as an index to the published literature than as a stimulant to research in its broader aspects. Since Dr. Prideaux is keenly interested in problems of valency, in reference to which he has himself made original contributions, it is an anomaly (for which the editor is perhaps responsible) that, although data are cited for the parachor of phosphorus oxychloride, no reference is made to their interpretation by means of a semi-polar bond, and that when, in certain rare instances, structural formulæ of compounds of this type are set out in full, the atom of phosphorus is associated with five bonds.

The book may therefore be commended without reserve to those who wish to study fundamental chemistry, undefiled by any taint of modernism; but it will disappoint those who may consider that the problems of molecule-building are too important to be discussed adequately in three paragraphs of less than half a page each in a book of more than 200 pages.

Handbuch der Chemotherapie. Von Dr. Viktor Fischl und Prof. Dr. Hans Schlossberger. Teil 2: *Metallderivate.* Pp. xi+359–898. (Leipzig: Fischers medizinische Buchhandlung, 1934.) 55 gold marks.

THIS second volume completes the work (the first volume of which was reviewed in NATURE, **132**, 694; 1933) and is provided with an adequate index covering the contents of the two volumes. The issue of a third volume comprising a general section on theories of chemotherapy has been postponed with the laudable object of preventing the book from becoming at once too bulky and too costly. The projected third volume will either appear as an independent work or be added if and when a new edition is required.

The metallic derivatives (including those of fluorine and iodine) are treated on the same plan and with the same clarity and precision as the metal-free organic compounds in vol. 1. Of special value are the introductory historical surveys of the therapeutic use of each element.

One third of the book is devoted to arsenic compounds, of which there is a very full account. Incidentally, the Styrian arsenic eaters are said to have taken the trisulphide, whereas it is generally understood that they consumed the oxide. Special sections are devoted to the compounds of antimony, bismuth, copper, silver, gold, mercury and the rare metals.

The work forms a valuable addition to the literature of the subject, and the authors are to be congratulated on its speedy completion.

The African To-day. By Prof. Diedrich Westermann. (Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures.) Pp. xv+343. (London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THOSE who wish to know something of present-day conditions in native Africa and to understand why and how things have come to be as they are, may take up this book with confidence that what is essential will be found in its pages and for the most part told at first-hand. Dr. Westermann explains the ethnic composition of the African peoples, their linguistic affinities, and demonstrates the constituents of their culture. In the case of the last named, taking each aspect in turn, religion, social organisation, economics, material culture and the like, he shows how they have come into contact with European civilisation, the resulting modification in each instance, and its effect on native life generally. Tendencies and possibilities are carefully considered.

The book should be read in conjunction with the scheme for African research of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, more familiarly known as the 'Five Year Plan', to which indeed Dr. Westermann makes frequent reference. The prolegomena to that plan and Dr. Westermann's book give a plain statement of facts, which should not be ignored in the future political and economic policy of Africa.