

Publications du Bureau d'Études géologiques et Minières coloniales. *Les ressources minérales de la France d'outre-mer*. 1: *Le charbon*. Pp. iii+245. 24 francs. 2: *Le fer, le manganèse, le chrome, le nickel, l'étain, le tungstène, le graphite, le glucinium, le molybdène, le cobalt, le titane, le vanadium*. Pp. iii+436. 36 francs. (Paris: Société d'Éditions Géographiques, Maritimes et Coloniales, 1933-34.)

THESE two volumes form part of a series the aim of which is to make better known the geology and mineral resources of the French colonies. A preliminary volume, "La géologie et les mines de la France d'outre-mer", was noticed in NATURE last year (vol. 131, June 10, 1933). It was of an introductory nature, and dealt with each colony in turn, emphasising more particularly the geology of these scattered colonies. In the volumes under notice the plan differs, each material or element being treated separately. The general scheme is as follows. An adequate account of the geology of each deposit is given, illustrated by sketch maps and diagrams. This is followed by a description of the nature of the ores and the forms in which they generally occur. In volume 2, which deals with iron and metals important in the metallurgy of iron and steel, the uses and metallurgy of the several metals are discussed. Finally, with the aid of up-to-date statistics as to production, consumption and markets, the present importance and future possibilities of each deposit are summarised. Comparative descriptions are also given of world deposits other than those of the French colonies.

Many of the deposits described are at present comparatively unimportant commercially. Nevertheless, to the geologist and mining engineer the volumes are definitely interesting, since they furnish descriptions, with bibliographies, of the geology and ore deposits of a number of little-known countries, the literature of which is otherwise relatively inaccessible.

To the economist and politician the importance which some of these deposits might assume in the event of another world war may not be without interest.

*The Problem of the Twentieth Century: a Study in International Relationships*. By Lord Davies. New and revised edition. Pp. xvii+819+2 plates. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1934.) 21s. net.

IT is encouraging to find that a second edition of this masterly book has been called for, and for an estimate of its general content and purpose we must refer to the review of the first edition published in NATURE on January 17, 1931. The three years which have elapsed since then have only added to the urgency of the problem discussed, while they have given Lord Davies the opportunity of urging his solution in the House of Lords, where he spoke with the cordial though guarded sympathy of Lord Cecil and the other friends of the League of Nations and international

peace. The three years since the first edition have added to the difficulties of disarmament the fresh menace of a now triumphant Nazi party in Germany. Germany has left the League of Nations because she will not submit to gentle control. Is she more likely to return, if it is armed, on Lord Davies's plan, with all the resources of scientific warfare? We allude to these things not in a spirit hostile to the book, which is an admirable summary, historical, political and technical, of the whole question of the international prevention of war, but only to show the extreme and recently increasing difficulty of applying the solution of an international police force. The most hopeful line would seem to be that indicated by Lord Cecil in the debate in the House of Lords. Concentrate on the control of the air, a sphere which is most clearly international and in which our means of action are most modern and scientific.

F. S. M.

*Catalogue of the Books, Manuscripts, Maps and Drawings in the British Museum (Natural History)*. Vol. 7: *Supplement J—O*. Pp. iv+513-967. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1933.) n.p.

WITH this volume more than half the task of cataloguing the "supplementary" works in the Library of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington is completed. No information is given as to the period covered by this supplement, but in its earlier part it includes works published up to 1923 and in its later part to 1931. In addition, there are works of an earlier period—such as the majority of the entries under the heading of "Linnæus (Carl)", which form a valuable classified index to writings by or about the great botanist, occupying 91 pages of the book. The type is clear, the bibliographical work of the high quality which readers have come to expect in these volumes; the book will be valued as a guide to a great library of natural history, and as a general index to the natural science publications of its period.

*Introduction à l'étude de l'effet Raman: ses applications chimiques*. Par Prof. Pierre Daure. Pp. viii+90. (Paris: Éditions de la *Revue d'Optique théorique et instrumentale*, 1933.) 18 francs.

THIS little work gives a brief and simple, but extremely clearly written account of "one of the greatest gifts bestowed by physicists upon chemists". The five chapter headings are: molecular diffusion and the Raman effect; technique; application of the spectra to chemical analysis; interpretation of Raman spectra; and examples of chemical application. Attention is thus fairly apportioned between the practical and theoretical side. Photographs of Raman spectra are well reproduced. The examples are almost wholly confined to organic substances, and the extensive contributions made by research workers in India and the United States with the help of this rapidly developing physical weapon are almost untouched.

N. M. B.