the nose and throat, the viscera, as well as all the other bodily systems are then each treated separately, and the volume closes with an appendix by Dr. Hartman on the housing and care of the rhesus monkey.

In their preface, the editors apologise for a certain lack "of that balance that should characterise a text book". This lack of balance could scarcely be described as inconspicuous, and it will undoubtedly strike both of the classes, research workers and students of comparative anatomy, for whom this handbook should have a special appeal. Thus readers will wonder at the brevity of some sections—for example, that on the central nervous system—and in doing so they will almost certainly fail to find a point of view which justifies the devotion of nearly a third of the book to a description of muscles, especially when this appears to have been done at the expense of other parts. Because of its lack of balance, the book may unfortunately defeat one of the purposes of its publication, for the small amount of information given about such parts of the body as the nervous system and the vascular system, will diminish its value to many experimental workers.

There are other criticisms which will undoubtedly be made by specialists who go to the book for information about the rhesus. For example, there can be few experimental biologists who do not already know from their most elementary studies of zoology and mammalian anatomy, such simple facts as "the eye-ball consists of three coats", or that muscles are usually "grouped in the categories, unstriated, cardiac and striated". There are many more specific pieces of descriptive information about the rhesus that could have been related rather than including description which applies fairly generally in mammalian anatomy. For example, the intimate structure of the retina could have been discussed, or if not discussed, at least reference could have been made to the literature where it has been discussed. It is true that in their preface the editors point out that the bibliographies of the separate chapters include only the more important references, but even this apology does not excuse the lack of mention of such outstanding works as, to cite another field of study, Poljak's recent monograph on the rhesus brain

In spite of shortcomings such as these, the book, which is well illustrated and indexed, performs a useful and stimulating service. It not only describes the rhesus, but it also affords an excellent background for further anatomical studies of subhuman Primates.

Short Reviews

An Introduction to the Biochemistry of Nitrogen Conservation. By Dr. Gilbert J. Fowler. Pp. viii+280. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1934.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

SEVERAL years ago Dr. Fowler wrote a small book on some aspects of biochemistry of interest to civil engineers, medical officers of health and those engaged in tropical agriculture. The present volume is based on the earlier publication and includes the substances of lectures delivered at Patna University. Following a chapter on elementary biochemical technique, the author deals with the problem of nitrogen conservation with which he has been so closely identified in England and in India. The greater part of the book is new—the activated sludge process of sewage purifications developed by the author and his associates at Manchester was still unknown in 1911. This process is the greatest advance in general methods of sewage disposal which the twentieth century has yet produced.

From the time of Liebig, many writers have deplored the waste of fertilising material involved in the disposal of refuse from urban communities, without much practical result in Europe and America. The greater economic stress of life in the East has, however, compelled attention to the problem. In India the production of compost from vegetable waste treated with cattle urine, as at Indore, or with activated sludge, is now well organised. An attempt is made to control the carbon-nitrogen ratio on the lines first established at Rothamsted.

Considering the range of subjects covered, the bibliography is comprehensive. The chapter on non-nitrogenous organic matter contains no reference to Norman's work on the biological decomposition of plant materials, a subject fundamental to many of the operations described later. It is a pity that the references were not checked more carefully, as a few errors or misprints in the earlier publication have been reproduced. The style is easy, and the book cannot fail to interest students of hygiene and agricultural science. E. H. R.

Geology of California. By Ralph D. Reed. Pp. xxiv+355+17 plates. (Tulsa, Okla.: American Association of Petroleum Geologists; London: Thomas Murby and Co., 1933.) 5 dollars.

FOLLOWING the earlier studies of the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the mining districts of California, there has more recently been an