

aspects. To have done this in 368 pages, which include 6 pages of index and 126 pages of literature references, involves immense condensation, and leaves little room for any expression of the author's own opinions. Perhaps, in a field where to-day so much is speculation and controversy, this is not altogether to be regretted. An indication of the relative apportionment of subject matter can be obtained by considering the bibliographical references. To the general section there are 123; to the sections on the enzymes of the pancreas, thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, pituitary, reproductive, and miscellaneous glands (including the thymus, spleen, intestinal tract, pineal body, etc.) there are respectively 1,245, 1,000, 337, 1,092, 1,237, 910, 688.

For these references alone the book is one to be welcomed; it is only the specialised experts working in each individual field who can precisely assess the value of the book in its particular aspects.

A. L. B.

*The Application of Absorption Spectra to the Study of Vitamins and Hormones.* By Dr. R. A. Morton. Pp. 70+6 plates. (London: Adam Hilger, Ltd., n.d.) 10s. net.

THIS small volume, which deals mainly with vitamins and scarcely at all with hormones, gives a concise and excellent summary of the achievements of absorption spectroscopy as a valuable adjunct in the isolation and identification of naturally occurring compounds which are present in extremely low concentrations. Dr. Morton's own investigations have played a prominent part in relation to the work on vitamins A and D, and it is unfortunate that the relatively high price will prevent this book from finding its way into the hands of many biochemical research workers who would find much of interest and of value in its pages.

The book is usefully illustrated by plates and figures, and a noteworthy feature is the table of carotenoids and their distinguishing properties. The amazingly rapid progress now being made in the chemistry of the vitamins and hormones is responsible for the fact that some of the sections are already out of date to some extent. Various phases in the application of spectroscopic methods are well brought out: first, the uncertainty as to the significance of the absorption bands given by crude extracts; then the use of the characteristic spectrum in the concentration of the active principle; and finally, the application to the quantitative evaluation of the vitamin.

*The Statesman's Year-Book: Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for the Year 1935.* Edited by Dr. M. Epstein. Seventy-second Annual Publication: Revised after Official Returns. Pp. xxxvi+1488. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 20s. net.

THE new edition of this well-known book of reference maintains the familiar arrangement of past years, which gives rather more than a third of the book to the British Empire and the United States, and

the remainder to the other States of the world with their Colonies and Dependencies, arranged in alphabetical order. The account of each State ends with a long list of useful books and there is a voluminous index to every place name. The volume has undergone the usual thorough revision and contains a marvellous array of recent statistical matter relating to area, population, finance and trade, besides ample accounts of constitutions and Governments. Unsettled as the state of the world is at present, there have been no transferences of territory of importance except the Saar, no emergence of new States and no disappearance of old ones during the year. Manchuria still appears under its old name as a territory of China, although a coloured map shows Manchukuo according to Japanese sources. A second coloured map shows the Saharan area ceded to Italy by the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in the Libyan boundary settlement.

*L'Espèce, la race, et le métissage en anthropologie: introduction à l'étude de l'anthropologie générale.* Par Henri Neuville. (Archives de l'Institut de Paléontologie humaine, Mémoire 11.) Pp. iii+515. (Paris: Masson et Cie, 1933.) 200 francs.

THE publication of an intensive study of 'race' and attendant problems is a new departure for the Institut de Paléontologie, which the author justifies by his views of its relationship to the objectives of the study of human palaeontology and archæology. M. Neuville's interpretation of the result of the geographical position of Europe and its function as a terminal point in racial migration is illuminating in relation to the consideration of the origin and distribution of racial characters in that continent.

The most important section in this study of race, however, is that which covers the study of material relating to the crosses of different races, in which the valuable but not too well-known data from the French colonies of Annam and Tonquin and West Africa are set out and considered in some detail.

*A Text-Book of Quantitative Chemical Analysis.* By Dr. A. C. Cumming and Dr. S. A. Kay. Sixth edition, revised by F. C. Guthrie and J. T. Nance. Pp. xv+482. (London and Edinburgh: Gurney and Jackson, 1934.) 15s. net.

ORIGINATING in 1913, this book has now reached its sixth edition—no better testimonial can be desired. The revision has been undertaken by Messrs. Guthrie and Nance, both lecturers in the University of Liverpool. Needless to say, the book has been brought up-to-date, for there is progress in this as in other branches of chemistry. Very properly 'ml.' has been substituted for 'c.c.' The changes which are indicated in the preface include recent methods for calibrating volumetric apparatus and determining hydron concentration. The enhanced use of electrolytic methods is given due attention and the same applies to colorimetric methods, for which a number of new reagents have been described. In addition to what may be described as general analysis, the book has chapters relating to the analysis of ores and alloys, of gas and water.