

Mr. Aykroyd does not hide Lavoisier's "grabbiness" (as he calls it) in adding to his considerable wealth, and in the familiar points of scientific priority. But he shows well that Lavoisier toiled greatly for the material civilising of a dirty and misgoverned nation; and that this public service came to take far more of his energy and time than did his scientific researches. Nevertheless in the end it failed, as they did, to save him in '94 from the inevitable fate of the ci-devant tax-farmers. The latter years of Lavoisier's life are especially well told, and the mounting crises of the time; and the author's pleasant humour enlivens his sketch of Mme. Lavoisier's essay in second marriage with Count Rumford.

It is not to this work that chemists and physiologists would turn for authoritative history of their sciences, for that is scarcely the author's intention; but it will appeal to them, and no less to lay readers, because it shows well the diversity of the human agents through whom scientific discovery grows.

IRVINE MASSON.

Hutchinson's Technical and Scientific Encyclopædia: Terms, Processes, Data, in Pure and Applied Science, Construction and Engineering, the Principal Manufacturing Industries, the Skilled Trades: with a Working Bibliography. Edited by C. F. Tweney and I. P. Shirshov. In 3 vols. Vol. 1: *A to Direction-Finding*. Pp. viii+672. (London: Hutchinson and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., n.d.) 28s.

A DYSPEPTIC reviewer once grudgingly concluded his notice of a book with the words, "We have not detected any errors, but no doubt there are some". In a work of the comprehensive range of this "Encyclopædia", it is almost inevitable that there should be sins of omission or of commission, but our attitude towards such an enterprise is one of admiration for what has been so well done rather than of finding faults in it. The work is, however, not so much an encyclopædia as an encyclopædic dictionary. Though a fair number of the articles may rightly be described as encyclopædic in character, most of the entries are of the nature of definitions or explanatory paragraphs relating to words and terms which make up the vocabulary of science and technology.

The editors, with the assistance of about eighty principal contributors, have been successful in their treatment of a very wide field, and few points appropriate to the survey have escaped notice, even if they have only recently emerged. Thus, we find definitions or explanations of such subjects as bel and decibel, ascorbic acid and carotene as vitamins, Cepheid variables, and cosmic radiation. We miss cytology; and though chromosphere is included we do not find chromosome; also deuterium and diplogen occur but not diplon, and dingo but not dinosaur. These, however, are but minor points, and we have no hesitation in saying that the editors and the publishers deserve the thanks of all who are engaged in scientific or industrial occupations for this handy and helpful work of ready reference. We trust the two further volumes will maintain the same high standard.

Scrambles in Japan and Formosa. By the Rev. W. H. Murray Walton. Pp. 304+26 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1934.) 18s. net.

BOOKS on Formosa are relatively few, and this one treats of the little-known mountainous part of that island, much of which is still only nominally under Japanese control. The hill tribes were left alone by the Chinese, but are gradually being subdued by the Japanese. There is a brief sketch of the habits of these 'head hunters', and a great deal about the rugged peaks of the island, including Nūtaka, which rises to well over twelve thousand feet. After the ascent of these and other lofty peaks, Mr. Walton returned to Japan and climbed in the Japanese Alps. There is an interesting chapter about the island of Yakushima and its forests and people. It is, however, in respect of the attention it gives to Formosa that this book has its chief value. There are useful maps and many photographs.

Alpine Pilgrimage. By Dr. Julius Kugy. Translated by H. E. G. Tyndale. Pp. xxii+374+20 plates. (London: John Murray, 1934.) 12s. net.

In this volume a well-known mountaineer summarises the work of forty-five years, mainly in the Carnic and Julian Alps. It is a book that should delight not only climbers but also all who care for mountain scenery and alpine pastures, for Dr. Kugy writes with equal charm of the hills, the flowers and the animal life. The technique of climbing interests him little and he claims to have written neither a climber's guide nor a book of sport. Achievements, though he could claim many, do not impress him. To him the charm of mountaineering lies in the solitude and beauty, and he abhors the dedication of Alpine heights to record breakers, and tourists with provisioned huts and inns and mountain railways. There are many fine photographs and a useful map. The book should delight all mountaineers.

Philosophy and Psychology

The Family: its Sociology and Social Psychiatry. By Prof. J. K. Folsom. (Wiley Social Science Series.) Pp. xiii+604. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1934.) 25s. net.

THE development of modern society in the post-War period has been denounced as thoroughly immoral and degenerate; it has been justified as an expansion of the opportunity for self-expression. Dr. Folsom studies the function of the family as an integral part of society and, without expressing an ethical judgment, diagnoses the changes in the circumstances and conditions affecting it as part of this development, according as they conduce to or hinder the proper performance of its function in a healthy community. Conduct which in the ethical judgment would be regarded as immoral, that is, not in accordance with the conventions of modern civilised society, is classified as a maladjustment.