

of a chemical works and not the design of the individual machines installed therein, although in one chapter entitled "Selection of Process Equipment" brief descriptions are given of the types of machines suitable for specific operations in chemical works.

Throughout the book there are copies of questionnaires issued by various firms to enable them to assess the purchaser's requirements before submitting a quotation. There is also a large number of tables giving data upon a wide variety of subjects which would be valuable to anyone planning or constructing a chemical works. As the theory underlying any design is not fully discussed, the utility of the book, which might well be entitled "Problems in Planning a Chemical Works", depends upon the data and hints accumulated from practical sources.

The English in places is somewhat involved and prevents the reader easily acquiring the information which the author wishes to impart.

*Introduction to Early Roman Law: Comparative Sociological Studies.* By C. W. Westrup. *The Patriarchal Joint Family. 2: Joint Family and Family Property.* Pp. iii+192. (Copenhagen: Levin and Munksgaard; London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 12s. 6d. net.

IN this volume—a memorial volume to Sir Henry S. Maine—the author reviews two aspects of the family as an institution in the life of early Rome in so far as it is reflected in early law. In type it conforms to the pattern of the Indo-European joint family. It is compared here with the family as it is found in the records of, or in survivals among, the Indo-European peoples, Teutons, Celts, Slavs and Indians.

The controlling factor in both family organisation and inheritance of property was first the necessity for ensuring the continuance of the family cult and secondly the desire to preserve property as a group possession. The latter in the mind of the practical Roman was the more important binding force in securing the perpetuation of the family tie, centring in the inheritance by the eldest son as the controlling power in the group, but without the right of absolute possession or disposal. The author here examines in detail the modifications of the type which were introduced in Roman practice and traces the course of development in the idea of the family and family property under the influence of various factors, of which in the main the growth of the concepts of the individual family and individual property were the most decisive.

*Elementary Qualitative Analysis.* By Dr. F. M. Brewer. Pp. viii+228. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 6s. net.

THERE is a gratifying tendency for modern general text-books on analysis to become something more than collections of tables and recipes by the extension of their scope to include other matter: thus, a text on the quantitative side will deal with the underlying physico-chemical considerations. In the present handy volume, which for the sake of brevity confines itself to the familiar arbitrary common radicles, an attempt is made to emphasise the connexion between

the analytical groups and the groups of the Periodic Table, thus combining the general behaviour of an element with its analytical reactions. As an example, it is pointed out that, with one exception, those metals which are precipitated by hydrogen sulphide from acid solution occur in Nature predominantly as sulphides; this relationship, which can be extended to other insoluble compounds utilised in qualitative work, has a perfectly simple explanation, and yet is almost universally overlooked.

Of the general descriptive matter, little need be said since almost of necessity it must follow the familiar lines; nevertheless, in view of the dual purpose of the book, the volume has a just claim for favourable consideration among the numerous members of its particular class. B. A. E.

*Encyclopaedia of Veterinary Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics.* Edited by Prof. George H. Wooldridge. (Oxford Medical Publications.) Second edition. In 2 vols. Vol. 1: *Veterinary Medicine.* Pp. xvi+836+xliv+2 plates. Vol. 2: *Surgery and Obstetrics.* Pp. viii+837-1652+li+plates 3-6. (London: Oxford University Press, 1934.) 126s. net.

THIS encyclopædia, edited by Prof. George H. Wooldridge, professor of medicine and hygiene at the Royal Veterinary College, London, is written by a panel of forty-eight veterinarians, all recognised authorities in their special subjects. Intended to be of use to general practitioners, owners of valuable animals and medical men interested in animal diseases, pathological detail is reduced to the minimum necessary for the understanding of clinical conditions. In keeping with the growing importance of the subjects, new chapters on deficiency diseases and endocrinology have been introduced in this, the second, edition. The work is comprehensive, authoritative, well illustrated, and arranged on a systematic as opposed to an alphabetical plan. A table of contents, author and subject index make reference easy. The work will be of real value to all interested in the more practical aspects of animal disease.

*The Indus Civilization.* By Dr. Ernest Mackay. Pp. viii+210+16 plates. (London: Lovat Dickson and Thompson, Ltd., 1935.) 6s. net.

THIS little book is the first of a series of handbooks of sectional archaeology, authoritative but not technically advanced, intended for both the general reader and the student. Dr. Mackay has covered the main outline of the results of the excavation of the prehistoric sites of northern India and the relations, chronological and cultural, of the Indus civilisation adequately and with the lucidity to be expected from his intimate and detailed knowledge. He appends a useful bibliography and an excellent series of small but very clear illustrations. If the volumes which follow maintain the standard of the first—and they should if the names of the authors who are to contribute may be taken as a guarantee—this series will be a distinct addition to the literature of 'science made popular' in the best sense.