

Libraries for Scientific Research in Europe and America

By H. Philip Spratt. Pp. 227. (London: Grafton and Co., 1936.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS informative little book is the result of a series of tours made by the author in Europe and North America, and sets out to describe the research facilities existing in the more important specialist libraries of the two continents—not only from the point of view of the librarian who wants to know the latest methods in actual use, but also from that of the research worker anxious to learn in what way modern libraries administer to his needs in the search for published information on his subject.

After describing six representative libraries in London, the author takes us *via* Paris and Brussels to Scandinavia, Germany, Poland, and Russia—finding in the latter country that most of the libraries are dominated by “books on science (and communism)”—and thence to America, to which about one half of the book is devoted. In the case of each library—and nearly a hundred are included in the book—Mr. Spratt gives details of the arrangement of catalogues and indexes, of the classification used (with a distinct leaning towards the Universal Decimal Classification), of information services and the provision of photographic and other apparatus, and of the general administration in so far as this interests the public as users.

The survey is thorough and there is evidence throughout of the author's practical knowledge of the problems involved and of his first-hand inquiry into the present methods of dealing with them. The index is well constructed but lacks balance. The entry “British Museum, 47” supplies the information that the Bibliothèque Nationale ranks with the British Museum, while “John Crerar Library, 186” refers the reader to a five-page description of that institution.

A. G.

Primitive Law

By A. S. Diamond. Pp. x+451. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 25s. net.

MR. DIAMOND holds that Sir Henry Maine's conception of primitive law as inseparable from the concepts of primitive religion and morality is no longer tenable in the light of modern research, and, further, that in the development of early law there is a parallelism which corresponds with economic and social progress. Thus the code of Hammurabi, for example, is formulated in a society which corresponds in economic development with the societies which produced the codes of medieval Europe. The undoubted religious elements which appear in the codes as they have come down to us are due, he holds, not to the fact that they embody survivals from an earlier stage in which religious belief, law and morality were undifferentiated, but are due to introductions by priestly scribes at a date later than the formulation of the codes.

Mr. Diamond has made a careful analysis of such early codes as have survived, and has surveyed in detail the practice of modern primitive peoples for evidence in support of his view. This vast mass of

fact brings out clearly certain weaknesses in the oversimplification inherent in Maine's point of view and method. On the other hand, as regards Mr. Diamond's principal contention, however much may be conceded to priestly intervention, the distinction by which the author would seek to rule out Maine's view is largely a question of definition and determination of the point at which what he regards as law begins.

The Extra Pharmacopœia of Martindale and Westcott (Published by direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.) Twentieth edition. Vol. 2. Pp. xxxvi+889. (London: The Pharmaceutical Press; H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 22s. 6d. net.

W. H. MARTINDALE, who had for many years carried on his father's work as author of the “Extra Pharmacopœia”, died in 1933. He had brought out a new edition every four years and the book has become indispensable. He produced the first volume of the twentieth edition in 1932. The second volume has now been prepared by a committee of the Pharmaceutical Society—under the editorship of Mr. C. E. Corfield, the editor of the “British Pharmacopœia”. This committee has undertaken the heavy task of preparing future editions. It has always been a source of wonder that Dr. Martindale should be able to do all this by himself; Dr. Westcott's collaboration only lasted for a period.

The first volume deals with the manufacture, composition and uses of drugs. The second volume consists of a series of appendixes dealing with diverse subjects such as the analysis of bread and butter, health resorts, disinfectants and proprietary medicines. The committee has managed to carry out a thorough revision without destroying the book's individuality. Most of the familiar sections are still there, expanded slightly and brought up to date. The section on modern views of atomic structure now occupies six pages. Modern methods of biological assay have been included, and there is much interesting information about recent work on hormones and vitamins.

Mechanics and Hydrostatics

By Dr. R. G. Mitton. (Dent's Modern Science Series.) Pp. ix+275. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 1936.) 3s.

THIS volume has been designed to cover the School Certificate and Matriculation courses in mechanics and hydrostatics. The author has presented the subject matter in a very lucid and interesting manner, and a noteworthy feature is the number of excellent photographic reproductions illustrating the practical applications in industry of the principles discussed. It will also be encouraging to up-to-date teachers to find that the author has adopted the policy of treating absolute units as fundamental from the earliest stages.

The book is amply supplied with exercises, many of which have been taken from the various School Certificate and Matriculation examination papers. Answers to these are also given.