

Out of the Night:

a Biologist's View of the Future. By Prof. H. J. Muller. Pp. 127. (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1935.) 1.50 dollars. Pp. 160. (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1936.) 4s. 6d. net.

EUGENICS is based very largely on genetics, and any technical or theoretical advance in the latter science has its effect on eugenical thought. Consequently, the considered views of Prof. Muller, well known as one of the leading geneticists of the day, on eugenical topics are very welcome.

Prof. Muller commences with a consideration of the evolution of man, illustrating his argument with novel and effective analogy. He then discusses the future of man and contrasts man's probable fate if conscious control of the occurrence of various genetical types is not exercised, with his possible achievements if such a control is successfully attempted.

The author next considers the measures which seem desirable for the purpose of such a control of genetical change in man. He favours the extensive use of a few chosen sires, by a technique involving the storage of gametes and artificial insemination. It is important to note that technically many of the proposals made are either possible at present or likely to be rendered possible by a relatively small amount of further research.

It is certain that Prof. Muller's views on the technique of human improvement will not be universally accepted. Some geneticists do not agree that the use of a few chosen sires is the best way of achieving rapid selection. It can be stated, however, that, in spite of possible disagreement on some points, the book will be of great interest to anyone concerned with the problems of eugenics, as it is both genetically and technically accurate.

K. MATHER.

L'Année psychologique

Fondateurs: Henry Beaunis et Alfred Binet. Publiée par Prof. Henri Piéron. (Bibliothèque de Philosophie contemporaine.) Année 35 (1934). Vol. 1. Pp. xix + 480. Vol. 2. Pp. 481-912. (Paris: Felix Alcan, 1935.) 120 francs.

THIS excellent annual publication becomes more and more an indispensable aid to the study of the ever-increasing production of works and memoirs on psychology. The research value of the "Année Psychologique" is shown not only in its original memoirs, but also and mainly in the useful classification and summary reviews of the current literature concerning psychology published during the year. Among the original memoirs published in the present issue, we should mention H. Piéron's "L'Évanouissement de la sensation lumineuse" and the two essays on psychological factors by N. Margineanu. The classification of the works reviewed occupies fourteen pages of the table of contents; which shows the reviewer's difficulty in making a satisfactory selection, and also the wealth of material which has been sifted and analysed by the editors of this important publication.

T. G.

The Monks of Athos

By Prof. R. M. Dawkins. Pp. 408 + 6 plates. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1936.) 15s. net.

PROF. DAWKINS, whose knowledge of the eastern Mediterranean now extends over more than thirty years, has long been known to students not only as an archæologist, but also as a diligent collector of the folk-lore and legends current, or recently current, among the modern Greeks of the mainland and the islands. In the course of four visits to Athos, he has made a gathering of the legends current among the members of the remarkable monastic communities of the peninsula, to which he has added a gleanings from the literature relating to it. His purpose, however, has been inspired by a deeper motive than that of collection merely: his aim has been to test the value of folk-memory as preserved in these legends—a purpose for which Athos is better fitted than most localities. It is somewhat remarkable to find that, in communities which are notoriously anti-feminine, the Virgin Mary holds a place no less prominent than in other parts of the Mediterranean. It is also to be noted, the author points out, that theological controversy, which has raged here on more than one occasion, appears to have been forgotten almost immediately after settlement, and has left little or no mark on tradition.

Prof. Dawkins found that his main purpose would have been very inadequately served without some account of the geographical and cultural setting. In consequence, he has written a full description of the peninsula, which conveys its charm in a literary style no less felicitous than the subject matter demands.

Geologie von Asien

Von Prof. Dr. Kurt Leuchs. Band 1, Teil 1: Überblick über Asien, Nordasien. (Geologie der Erde, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Erich Krenkel.) Pp. viii + 236. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1935.) 18.40 gold marks.

THIS addition to the "Geologie der Erde" series, published under the general editorship of Prof. E. Krenkel, is planned to comprise two volumes each of two parts, and, in its completed form, will fill a long-felt want in geological literature.

The first part of vol. 1 contains a general introduction including a summary of the physiography and geological structure of Asia as a whole. This is followed by the section dealing with north Asia, which includes a relatively detailed discussion of the stratigraphy and igneous rocks, the tectonic structure and the chief ore deposits of the region.

To some extent it covers the same ground as Obrutschew's "Geologie von Sibirien", published in 1925; but in the intervening years much new material has become available and is incorporated by Prof. Leuchs.

The chief value of this book lies undoubtedly in the fact that it summarizes and makes available a great body of obscure, and for all practical purposes, inaccessible Russian publications, and as such is a notable addition to geological literature.