

**Schlacke und Vitamine :**

die Schlackenkost als Behandlungsweg bei Krankheitszuständen. Von Prof. Dr. Hugo Salomon. Pp. vii+263. (Leipzig und Wien: Franz Deuticke, 1936.) 12 gold marks.

THAT anyone should be able to write some 250 pages on vitamins and roughage, in relation to the treatment of disease, is in itself surprising. When, however, we consider the author's name along with the facts that his book is published in Leipzig and Vienna and that he describes himself as of Buenos Ayres, we turn with some curiosity to see what it is all about, noting in passing that the dedication (to the author's wife) appears on a page headed by a text from Houston Stewart Chamberlain.

After all, there turns out to be nothing very exciting or subversive in the book. The author is an enthusiast for diets with a high roughage content, which also frequently means a high content of water-soluble vitamins and possibly of carotene. He seems to advocate wholemeal bread ("Schrotbrot", "Grahambrot") as an essential dietary constituent in the treatment of conditions as pathologically diverse as catarrhal icterus, hypertension, eczema, tuberculosis, diabetes (*sic*) and migraine.

Actually vitamins come in for very little mention at all; it is almost as if they had just been put into the title "to make it harder". The author's belief would seem, therefore, to be that if you take care of the roughage, the vitamins will take care of themselves. We know of little evidence for this faith, if fat-soluble vitamins are included in the creed.

This book may be of some assistance to those who have to ring changes on laxative diets with the view of achieving palatability and variety. As a contribution to nutritional or biochemical science it does not, however, seem likely to make an epoch, but its extreme colon-consciousness may give it an interest for psychologists.

A. L. B.

**Jabo Proverbs from Liberia :**

Maxims in the Life of a Native Tribe. By George Herzog, with the assistance of Charles G. Blooah. (Published for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures.) Pp. xiv+272. (London: Oxford University Press, 1936.) 10s. 6d. net.

PROVERBS are mere pin-points of a mass of communal wisdom and experience. A collection of proverbs is therefore meaningless unless to each saying there is added an account of the traditions and situations that give rise to it.

However well this may be done—and our authors have done it well and thoroughly—it is beginning at the wrong end. God and eternity, for example, do not appear as concepts that permeate life and inspire many things of which proverbs are the least; they are introduced merely as footnotes to pithy sayings. Those sayings are recorded with a phonetic minuteness which is entirely laudable, but the subject of titles is scattered in allusions that are sufficient only to convince us that they play an important part in Liberian society (pp. 28, 31, 196, etc.). On the other hand, many topics often go to one proverb.

Thus, No. 192 is a multiple peg for the care of teeth, matrimonial troubles, sacrifices, etc.

The reader feels as would a student of zoology who, instead of being given the whole animal to dissect, is faced with 416 carefully arranged heaps of miscellaneous tissues, which, if it were possible to piece them together, would represent only a small part of the whole.

The greater the care lavished on the preparation, the more one regrets that the labour should have been invested at so small a yield. The authors are thorough, painstaking, accurate, minute; in fact, they have the virtues one expects in research, except a sense of purpose.

A. M. H.

**The Rational Quartic Curve in Space of Three and Four Dimensions :**

being an Introduction to Rational Curves. By H. G. Telling. (Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, No. 34.) Pp. viii+78. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1936.) 5s. net.

IN this tract Miss Telling has presented in compact form a great deal of information, gathered from various sources, which is not available as a whole elsewhere. The tract is divided into two chapters and a short appendix. The first chapter deals with the four-dimensional curve and its projective generation, invariants and the symbolical notation for them, fundamental polarity, trisecant planes, chords, quadratic involutions, director lines and planes,  $g$ -lines and the manifold  $G$ , the chordal  $J$ , the quartic surface  $K$  and its nodes, Segre cubic primals, and linear complexes containing the curve, or apolar to it. In the second chapter we descend to three-dimensional space, and consider quartic curves of the first and second kind, principal, quadratic, and cubic involutions; flexes, trisecants and Hessian points, the surfaces of Steiner and Veronese, and several special kinds of quartic curves. The appendix consists of a note on involutions on the four-dimensional quartic.

The style of the tract is clear and readable. The text is confined to the main line of argument without minor details, and the smaller points are summarized in the form of examples for solution by the reader.

H. T. H. P.

**Mesure des températures**

Par Prof. G. Ribaud. (Collection Armand Colin: Section de physique, No. 190.) Pp. 224. (Paris: Armand Colin, 1936.) 10.50 francs.

THIS handy volume on the measurement of temperature maintains the high standard we have been led to expect in the Collection Armand Colin. Prof. Ribaud has had wide experience of the subject both in Strasbourg and in Paris, and his larger volume "Traité de Pyrométrie Optique" is an authoritative account of one single branch. The amount of information contained in this smaller book is remarkable, and the presentation is admirable. The international temperature scale is adopted as standard, and the various methods of measuring high temperatures receive special attention. At the moderate price charged, the volume ought to be in the possession of all concerned in this important practical problem.