

**Preparation of Scientific and Technical Papers**

By Prof. Sam F. Trelease and Emma Sarepta Yule. Third edition. Pp. 125. (Baltimore, Md.: Williams and Wilkins Co.; London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1936.) 7s.

MANY useful hints on the composition of scientific papers, and methods of presenting observations and results logically and precisely, are given in this small volume. Much practice, combined with a sense of literary values, are required for the production of a scientific paper to satisfy all the canons of style which writers are expected to acknowledge. There are, however, many typographical and other conventions which every author should know; and it is particularly in guidance as to the use of these that this book will be helpful.

We note that in the list of abbreviations of common weights and measures, and elsewhere in the book, "cc" is given for cubic centimetre; but, as actually two words are abbreviated, "c.c." is the correct form. The classified titles of a number of scientific periodicals are given in another list, but we miss several British publications of greater importance than some others included. Under anthropology, *Africa* is included but not the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*; and among other omissions are: the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*, the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, and the *Philosophical Magazine*, while *Science Progress* is wrongly described as "Science Progress in the Twentieth Century". It is very difficult to make up a list of this kind, and impossible within the space of about nine pages to give more than a few representative titles of the many thousands of scientific periodicals now published. We suggest, however, that, before the next edition of the book is issued, the lists of journals grouped under headings relating to various branches of science should be submitted to competent authorities in each branch for revision.

**The King's England:**

a New Domesday Book of 10,000 Towns and Villages. (1) Enchanted Land: Half-a-Million Miles in the King's England. By Arthur Mee. Pp. xviii+291+65 plates. 7s. 6d. net. (2) Kent: the Gateway of England and its Great Possessions. By Arthur Mee. Pp. xii+506+65 plates. 10s. 6d. net. (3) Warwickshire: Shakespeare's Country. Edited by Arthur Mee. Pp. xi+308+49 plates. 7s. 6d. net. (4) Lancashire: Cradle of our Prosperity. Edited by Arthur Mee. Pp. viii+326+49 plates. 7s. 6d. net. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 1936.)

THESE four volumes are the first instalment of a survey of England by counties, which aims at describing in detail every town and every village in the country which is worthy of interest on account of its present economic or social importance, its past historical or personal associations, or its retention of features of artistic, antiquarian or cultural significance. The author has had the assistance of a body of expert helpers; and some six years have been spent in preparation. The time is not too long, as some ten thousand villages, it is said,

have been visited. The collection of the photographs alone, if the illustration of the first four volumes is a fair sample, must have been a stupendous undertaking, especially as it is evident that on the whole a high standard has been attained.

Except in the first volume, which is a generalized epitome or survey of the topics with which the series deals as a whole, the arrangement of the material collected is that of the gazetteer. Each city, town or village visited appears in alphabetical order, the counties being characterized in a brief introduction, in which what is taken as the keynote is particularized, justified and expanded, though not at too great length. Kent, for example, is termed "the gateway of England", Warwickshire, "Shakespeare's country", and Lancashire, "the cradle of England's prosperity".

Yet in none of these volumes is this dominant note allowed to overshadow other interests. In Warwickshire, Birmingham and Coventry are not neglected, nor is Lancashire's industrialism allowed to obscure the relics of its ancient countryside or its interest for the student in Roman Ribchester and the wooden circle of Bleasdale. Mr. Mee is happiest, however, in rural Kent or Warwickshire, or in writing his general volume when he can roam about in the past among obscure villages with their ancient churches and family monuments, as well as their unexpected and their often surprising associations with some of the famous personages of history, social and literary no less than political.

Those of like tastes will roam with Mr. Mee with equal zest. It is a course of very mixed feeding, which will seem reprehensible to the formal historian and educationist. But it is very enjoyable.

**School Certificate Chemistry**

By A. Holderness and J. Lambert. Pp. x+414. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1936.) 4s. 6d.

THIS is a pleasing book profusely illustrated by photographs and line drawings, the latter being unusually clear and instructive. The atomic and molecular theories are given careful attention and the authors have succeeded in making clear a section which most pupils often find rather difficult. The metals are treated in a somewhat original manner, the authors using a classification based on the electrochemical series instead of the usual periodic classification. The salts are grouped according to acid radicals instead of metals, the sulphates, for example, being described in the chapter on sulphuric acid.

Each chapter is provided with a set of questions, and there are general questions at the end of the book, preceding a list of atomic weights and a table of logarithms. A useful feature is the final chapter of twenty pages devoted to revision notes and definitions, which contains some good general advice to young pupils about to present themselves for examination. This is certainly a book which pupils and teachers alike will enjoy using. The consistent use of arrows instead of equals signs in equations will not commend itself to teachers, who find that this practice leads to carelessness in balancing equations.