

Overseas Plant Products

By J. H. Holland. Pp. vii+279. (London: John Bale, Sons and Curnow, Ltd., 1937.) 6s. net.

THE author has very ably dealt in 268 pages with nearly all the important plant products of the world. Short explanatory notes to each of the products mentioned are authentic, accurate and up to date. Eleven pages of bibliography at the end of the book is a valuable addition. Those interested in further information on any one of the products discussed in the book can consult the particular literature relating to that product. Common vernacular names used generally in different countries might have been added for the advantage of local dealers in plant products. Short notes on the marketing of those products would also have been encouraging to the producers. With the progress of research on various plant products, and the discovery of the uses of many hitherto unknown plants in different countries, particularly in India, Burma and Africa, the list of plant products is growing so rapidly that it is to be hoped a second edition will be quickly necessary; slight discrepancies in some places might then be rectified also.

The book is a valuable addition to the publications on economic botany. It will undoubtedly prove useful not only to those who deal in plant products, but also to anyone interested in the relation of plants to human needs. It will be indispensable to museum workers, economic botanists and pharmacologists. The book is well printed and bound.

Materialprüfung mit Röntgenstrahlen:

unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Röntgenmetallkunde. Von Prof. Dr. Richard Glocker. Zweite umgearbeitete Auflage. Pp. v+386. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1936.) 33 gold marks.

SINCE the appearance of the first edition of this well-known work in 1927, the use of X-rays in the examination of materials has been greatly extended. The new edition is similar to the old in general arrangement, and any considerable increase in size has been avoided by careful revision of each section. The description of X-ray outfits (of German manufacture), now includes a full account of portable apparatus for the detection of flaws in built-up structures as well as the laboratory types, and the methods used in the examination of castings, forgings and welds are described. The discussion of determination of crystal structures, which occupies the greater part of the book, is both clear and informative. Tables of important structures are given, including a survey of the principal alloy systems, and such subjects as deformation textures and the determination of internal stress are treated in detail, although British work in this field has been overlooked. The section on transformations in the solid state also suffers through being too closely confined to German investigations, but the general presentation is fair, and the book can be recommended as a sound guide to a very important method of experiment. The mathematical treatment is simple and straightforward, and references to the more important papers under each head are collected in the bibliography.

Quantitative Analysis:

a Theoretical Approach. By Prof. William Rieman, III., and Dr. Jacob D. Neuss. (International Chemical Series.) Pp. ix+425. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1937.) 18s.

THIS is a most satisfactory text-book for the student. It is up to date, the theoretical principles underlying the various methods are clearly and accurately stated and the conditions for carrying out individual exercises are given in ample detail. To each chapter there is a useful résumé in the form of graded problems, and answers are provided to the numerical ones.

To deal with the theory and technique of potentiometric methods immediately following the volumetric determination of the chlorine ion and before discussing the methods of acidimetry and alkalimetry will be novel to many teachers. Its treatment could scarcely be better, although the authors have to assume a knowledge of mathematics unfortunately not possessed by all students who can profitably work through such a book as this.

No modern method of volumetric or gravimetric analysis with which the student might be expected to be familiar seems to have been omitted. Apart from anything else, the references to original and text-book literature will indicate to the student that quantitative chemical analysis is an important and continually expanding branch of chemical science.

C. S. G.

The Social Thought of the Ancient Civilizations

By Prof. Joyce O. Hertzler. (McGraw-Hill Publications in Sociology.) Pp. xvi+409. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1936.) 24s.

No one would dispute the desirability of the possibility of an examination of the social thought of the ancient civilizations, especially after reading the very able book of Prof. Hertzler. It is not only history, but also sociology and philosophy which can benefit from such an examination. For social forms of civilizations are necessarily an embodiment of the thought and attitude towards life of the various races concerned. The systematic exposition of the social thought of the ancient Egyptians, then of the Babylonians with special emphasis upon the Assyrian and Hittite collections of laws, then of ancient Persia, of early India and of ancient China, and finally of the Hebrews, is illustrated with a wealth of quotations from all available sources. The discussion of the principles involved is based also on the general background of the races concerned. The author has taken great trouble in selecting his material and in classifying it in such a way as to provide an intelligible and interesting study of the subject.

G. T.

Wireless Servicing Manual

By W. T. Coeking. Third (revised) edition. Pp. x+241. (London: Hiffe and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) 5s. net.

A VERY useful and reasonably priced monograph on the pathology of the wireless receiver, which can be recommended as supplementary reading to the usual text-books.