

Our Daily Bread:

a Geography of Production. By Sir Daniel Hall. Pp. xi+169. (London: John Murray, 1938.) 6s. net.

WE have travelled far since Mrs. Mangnall's "Historical and Miscellaneous Questions", first published in 1800, was widely used for initiating youth into an encyclopædic knowledge that ranged from the architecture of the universe to such lowly things as the nature and sources of hemp and ginger. The seeming omniscience of the author, no less than the illogical sequence of much of the subject-matter, makes amusing reading to-day, and gives us some justification for pluming ourselves on progress since achieved. Sir Daniel Hall's latest book, written primarily for use in urban schools, marks in a very striking manner the antithesis between the old and the new ways of imparting information. In simple language and easy-flowing style, he relates all those facts about the sources of our daily foodstuffs that a developing adolescent ought to know; and a slight discursiveness here and there, as well as many excellent pictures and a few maps, adds interest to his narrative.

In one respect, however, the book resembles "Mangnall": it is purely informative, and therefore invites a criticism which the author seems to expect when he says "Education consists in something more than handing out information, but none the less it is a thin and colourless life that does not start with a basis of facts". To the scientific mind a factual basis is a *sine qua non* of every mental discipline; nevertheless, for the very young, 'fairy stories' have much to commend them, and later on a trained imagination is essential for perceiving relationships between facts, for trying to explain differences between related facts, and for drawing conclusions by 'putting two and two together'. We may therefore hope that the author will follow up this excellent introduction to the facts of agriculture with a more ambitious book that will not only inform the developing mind, but also stimulate it to *think*. *Primum pensare deinde vivere*.
E. H. T.

Surface and Radiological Anatomy:

for Students and General Practitioners. By Prof. Arthur B. Appleton, Prof. William J. Hamilton and Dr. Ivan C. C. Tchaperoff. Pp. xi+311. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 1938.) 15s. net.

THE collaboration of two professors of anatomy with a radiologist has resulted in the production of a work which marks a new departure in the study of surface anatomy, and should be highly appreciated by the medical practitioner and student. The work is divided into six parts, devoted respectively to the upper limb, chest and back, abdomen, head and neck, vertebral column and lower limb, preceded by an introduction containing an account of radiological technique. There are three appendixes, containing tables of ossification, a summary of ossification and segmental innervation of muscles. The radiological methods include œsophagoscopy, gastroscopy, cystoscopy, ventriculography and encephalography.

The Subject Index to Periodicals, 1937

Pp. xxix+292. (London: The Library Association, 1938.) 70s.

THIS is the twenty-second year of publication of the "Subject Index to Periodicals" prepared by the Library Association. The Association and its general editor, Mr. T. Rowland Powel, are to be congratulated on the issue of the volume for 1937 only five months after the close of that year.

This volume introduces a new and valuable feature in a 'Location List' which tells the reader where he may consult the periodical mentioned. More than 170 libraries in the United Kingdom are mentioned in the list. In this list the reader is told in which libraries each of the 584 periodicals indexed may be found. There is, of course, no guarantee that the library in question would be prepared to lend its periodicals to borrowers. Of the periodicals indexed, 535 are English and American, 27 French and Belgian, 20 German and 2 Italian.

The articles indexed are arranged under subject headings such as hygiene, mine accidents, microscope, photography. The subject headings are arranged in alphabetical order, and are chosen from the alphabetical subject headings of the Library of Congress, U.S.A., with modifications and additions to suit British practice. Verse and fiction are not included.

With some important exceptions, periodicals covered by the following publications are not indexed: *Agricultural Index, Engineering Abstracts, Engineering Index, Index Medicus, Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colorists, Photographic Abstracts, Revue de Géologie, Royal Meteorological Society Bibliography, Science Abstracts A and B, Textile Institute Journal*. There is no doubt that the Library Association is doing valuable work in preparing this annual index to the contents of periodicals.

Diet and Cancer:

an Experimental Study. By Dr. N. Waterman. Pp. v+96. (Amsterdam: D. B. Centen's Uitgevers-Maatschappij, 1938.) 2.50 dollars.

AS the result of his investigations at the Leeuwenhoek Cancer Research Institute, Amsterdam, Dr. N. Waterman, while admitting that his results are neither complete nor definitive, maintains that the influence of different foodstuffs on a definite experimental form of cancer is incontestable. His experiments, which were carried out on mice developing tar cancer, showed that of the classical foodstuffs (proteins, carbohydrates and fats) only animal fats appeared to have a definite deleterious effect, the malignancy of the process being increased to a marked degree. As regards vitamins, increase of vitamin A intake had an undoubted, if not very marked, mitigating effect on the course of tar carcinoma; administration of vitamin B₁ did not have the unfavourable effect in tar cancer which it had in inoculated tumours; and vitamin C delayed the formation of carcinoma and increased the duration of life.