

Statistical Year-Book of the World Power Conference No. 2: Data on Resources and Annual Statistics for 1934 and 1935. Edited, with an Introduction and Explanatory Text, by Frederick Brown. Pp. 132. (London: World Power Conference, 1937.) 20s. net.

THIS Year-Book represents a further stage in the attempt of the World Power Conference to compile international statistics of power resources, development and utilization upon a comprehensive and comparable basis. As in the first publication (1936), definitions of each power-type, together with uniform tables, were supplied to national committees and other organizations for their returns. Ambiguities and minor defects discovered in these definitions during preparation of the first Year-Book were rectified before circulation, and a corresponding improvement is reflected in this second volume.

Admittedly a certain amount of additional data extracted from published sources could have been added, had they been expressed in similar units to those adopted by the World Power Conference, to make the work even more complete; but throughout the volume the editor has followed a policy of including only those data which conform closely to the definitions adopted as standard for this work. The statistics presented, therefore, may be regarded as accurate from the point of view of comparison with each other, though they are in no sense claimed to be comparable with other published statistics.

Statistics relating to production and distribution of manufactured gas and to production, stocks, imports, exports and consumption of coke, are included in this volume for the first time. Indeed, with the exception of wind and sun power, which the compilers state are the principal omissions, practically every type of solid, liquid and gaseous fuel, together with water-power and electricity, has been dealt with.

Animal Life in Fresh Water:

a Guide to British Fresh-water Invertebrates. By Dr. Helen Mellanby. Pp. viii+296. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 8s. 6d. net.

IN recent years, partly as a result of the establishment of the Freshwater Biological Association's station on Lake Windermere, there has been in Great Britain a welcome revival of interest in the fresh-water fauna and flora. The ease with which many types can be obtained almost everywhere and kept alive in small aquaria makes them very suitable material for the school teaching of biology, and Mrs. Mellanby's book has been planned to provide a guide for school teachers and pupils. For this purpose it is in many ways well adapted.

A large number of common invertebrate types are described and figured in sufficient detail to enable the elementary student to identify his captures approximately, and some account is given of the more important features of their habits and life-histories. It is much to be regretted, however, that a little more care has not been taken with its compilation. Misspellings such as "cilie", "flagellæ", "lacustræ", "Chironomous", "Notamma" (for *Notommata*) "Chæl-

onotus" (for *Chaetonotus*) and the like occur on almost every page and will cause needless trouble to the student. The style is sometimes slipshod, as, for example, where it is said that the Spongilla fly (*Sisyra*) "is not very common, but this may be due to its being small and inconspicuous". A sedentary animal attached to the body of another animal is by no means an "epiphyte", and the colour of grey or brown specimens of *Hydra* is not due to "zoochlorellæ".

W. T. C.

Modern Physics:

a Second Course in College Physics. By Prof. G. E. M. Jauncey. Second Edition. Pp. xviii+602. (London: Chapman and Hall Ltd., 1937.) 22s. net.

THAT Prof. Jauncey's book, now appearing in a second edition, has been reprinted three times since its first publication in 1932 is sufficient testimony to its usefulness. The date of the first edition gives a hint of the principal additions to be expected, and to be found, in this new edition. Besides these additions, which have involved much re-arrangement and re-writing, chapters on wave motion, the new quantum theory and physics of high pressure have been added.

For the information of new readers, it should be stated that Prof. Jauncey's book contains a fair measure of classical and introductory work, including chapters on alternating currents, the electromagnetic theory of radiation, gas-kinetic theory, geophysics, and astrophysics, to mention five out of the twenty-six chapters which go to make up the book. One chapter deals with "Some Useful Mathematics", and this chapter, in view of the demands on the space allotted to the volume, could be curtailed with advantage; the quite elementary calculus considerations are surely unnecessary to the type of student likely to benefit by the study of the book which, considered as a whole, is an admirable elementary introduction to the study of the problems of modern physics. But Prof. Jauncey should not describe Maxwell, who was a distinguished exponent of the art of writing light verse, as "given to writing verses of the jingle type".

A. F.

A Text-Book of Physics

By Dr. D. B. Deodhar. Pp. vi+672. (Allahabad: The Indian Press, Ltd., 1937.) 6 rupees.

DR. DEODHAR has produced a useful text-book of physics for students of intermediate grade. The book covers rather more than the usual ground; the topics are discussed clearly and, in some instances, a little more fully than is commonly the case. There is a good selection of examples, and a welcome feature of the book is the number of succinct descriptions of applications of physical principles to technical instruments.

The book bears signs of hurried writing—Foucault appears consistently as Focault, and there is a remarkable diagram showing the ascent of mercury in an open tube. Mass is quantity of matter, Newton's law of cooling is treated as an approximation valid