

An Approach to a Philosophy of Education

By Dr. Theodore H. Eaton. Pp. ix+273. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1938.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book is in two parts. Part 1 (longer and more important) attempts the establishment of systems of values from the points of view of the biologist, the psychologist, and the student of social sciences. Part 2 deals with the application of those systems to education.

The book is a good example of that essentially American stream of pragmatic thought of which Dewey and Thorndike are representatives. Like them, the author eschews metaphysics and attempts to found a system of values out of the stuff of common experience; and like them he draws inspiration from the ever-changing phenomena of American society in the twentieth century.

Dr. Eaton finds the highest biological values in parenthood and self-preservation; the highest psychological values in the achievement of integrated personality; and the highest social values in a critical attitude of mind based on standards of general human welfare. Difficulties at some points seem too easily brushed aside. Summary treatment, for example, is accorded to such questions as the meaning of 'biologically fit', and the nature of those 'satisfactions' which are the basis of personality. Freedom is scarcely discussed at all, and too little is said in explanation of the power which ideals involving self-sacrifice have held. But the title of the book does not allow us to demand full treatment of all these.

The Mâlêrs of the Rajmahal Hills

By Sasanka Sekher Sarkar. Pp. xiv+135+11 plates. (Calcutta: The Book Co., Ltd., 1938.) 4 rupees; 6s.

THE author of this monograph, a recruit to anthropological research, to whom Sarat Chandra Roy extends a cordial welcome in a commendatory preface, has now spent some years in the investigation of the Mâlêrs of the Rajmahal Hills, and has already contributed a number of papers on specific points to scientific literature. In this work, which is of a more generally descriptive character, he is especially interested in the problem of their relation to the Oraons. He is unable to accept the view that they are a branch of the Oraons, a relic from the time of the migration of that people, presumably as a result of Moslem pressure. In support of his contention he points, *inter alia*, to the absence of totemism and exogamic clans among the Mâlêrs; while he stresses the fact that as a hill people, they never have occupied the plains, nor could they be persuaded by the Government to do so.

Only two accounts of this interesting people have appeared in print previously—some thirty years ago. A point of interest in the present account is the change which has taken, and is still taking place in their culture. Dormitories, for example, for bachelors and spinsters are now decaying institutions, while the ancient custom of interment, under Hindu influence, has given place to cremation.

A Textbook of Inorganic Chemistry for Colleges

By Prof. James F. Norris and Prof. Ralph C. Young. (International Chemical Series.) Second edition. Pp. x+803. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1938.) 21s.

IN the preparation of the second edition of this book, Prof. Norris has been assisted by a co-author whose interests lie in the field of inorganic chemistry. A special feature of the book is the careful development of the fundamental ideas of atomic structure, isotopes, electronic valency, radioactivity, modern dissociation theory, etc., in such a way that they fit naturally into the course, and so much is presented at each step as can readily be understood by the student. The modern theory of acids and bases is used.

The pedagogic aspect of the subject has been kept constantly in mind, and for this reason the book will be of special interest to teachers. A useful feature is the numbered bibliography at the end, providing a wide range of suitable material from which both students and teachers can extend their knowledge of particular topics in which they are specially interested.

L'Antenne Rayonnante

Par Pierre Baudoux. (Institut Belge de Recherches Radioscientifiques, vol. 7.) Pp. 235. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie., 1938.) 40 francs.

THIS publication is a monograph describing a mathematical analysis of the current distribution in antennæ of various forms and of the resulting radiation therefrom. The classical theory of the problem is outlined, and the author then obtains solutions and an analysis of the appropriate coefficients to a closer degree of approximation than hitherto. After considering the vertical antenna of uniform cross-section, he deals with the spindle (or cigar-shape) and pyramidal forms of antennæ that are now in such common use at radio transmitting stations. The dipole antenna is also dealt with. The final chapter describes experiments carried out with model antennæ of various shapes of about 1.5 metres in height using oscillations of wave-length 2-5 metres. The current distribution in these models was measured and the resulting radiation deduced for comparison with the theoretical analysis.

R. L. S. R.

Fortschritte der Biochemie

Teil 3 (1931-1938). Von Prof. Dr. Felix Haurowitz. (Wissenschaftliche Forschungsberichte: Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe, herausgegeben von Dr. Raphael Ed. Liesegang, Band 49.) Pp. xi+167. (Dresden und Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff, 1938.) 9 gold marks.

THIS is the third volume of a series in which Prof. Haurowitz has presented reviews of the progress of biochemical research over a period of years. The present work covers the period 1931 to the beginning of 1938. It is comprehensive, concise and accurate, but it is unlikely to appeal to British or American men of science, who are accustomed to rely on reviews which appear annually and usually treat subjects in greater detail.

J. C. D.