

Gems and Gem Materials

By Prof. Edward Henry Kraus and Prof. Chester Baker Slawson. Third edition. Pp. xiii+287+4 plates. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1939.) 21s.

"KRAUS and Holden" has now become "Kraus and Slawson", as Prof. Kraus has been assisted in the preparation of this third edition of the book by Dr. Slawson, Dr. Holden having unfortunately died before the publication of even the first (1925) edition.

The features which have formerly made the book so popular have been still further strengthened, and there are twenty-seven additional pages and nineteen more illustrations in the text. The most immediately obvious improvement is the incorporation of four fine coloured plates of gem-stones, which originally appeared in Eppler's "Edelsteine und Schmucksteine". The chapters on cutting and polishing and on synthetic stones have been expanded and are now exceptionally good, and a short but useful chapter has been added on the metals used in jewellery.

Most of the small inaccuracies which were found in previous editions have now been corrected, but some still remain; notably in the diagram of absorption spectra and in the density figures given for synthetic and natural spinels. In the figures given throughout the book for specific gravity and refractive index the authors favour the broad values of the mineralogist rather than the more exact values which are often of diagnostic importance to the gemmologist.

Thanks to the clarity of the writing, the wide range covered by the book, and its many illustrations, "Gems and Gem Materials" is one of the most attractive texts on the subject that has yet appeared. It is a pity that so liberal a use of illustrations must inevitably entail a price which the needy jeweller's assistant will find it difficult to afford. B. W. A.

Evidence of Identity

By Kenneth Richmond. (Psychical Experiences Series.) Pp. viii+112. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1939.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS is another of the short text-books on psychical research which have been recently issued to supply a demand for material of better quality than that usually provided by the majority of writers on spiritualism. The examples selected are mainly based upon cases collected and examined by the Society for Psychical Research, and thus their evidential value is somewhat enhanced.

In the present volume, Mr. Richmond is concerned with the question of identity, not so much from the point of view of the survival of personality after death as from that of the problem of the means by which any kind of identity can be established when considered in relation to mediumistic communications. In the course of his discussion, the author makes no attempt to minimize the difficulties involved; and his treatment will go some way to curb

the enthusiasm of the uncritical believer and the seeker after miracles.

Apart from the fact that Mr. Richmond seems to lay a somewhat undue stress upon the rather dubious evidence supplied by the well-known American "Livre des Revenants", this little book is a good example of the work undertaken by the more sober among psychical researchers, and the author is to be congratulated upon the general level of criticism that he maintains throughout. A short glossary of terms most commonly used is appended, but there is no index.

Guide to Business Management Books

By G. E. Milward. Seventh edition. Pp. xiv+124. (London: Management Library, 1939.) 5s.

THE seventh edition of the Guide to Business Management Books, 1939, has been issued in cloth binding. It includes all notable books published during the six years up to and including November 1938. The Guide is arranged on the same lines as previous editions and the more outstanding books of 1938 are listed separately in the preface. The courses of reading printed in the Guide have again been expanded and are particularly adapted for staff training, although the biographical section might well be developed further, and include special studies which illustrate merits or defects of management in practice. A serious defect which should be rectified in subsequent editions is the absence of any dates of the editions of the works included.

The Subject Index to Periodicals, 1938

Pp. xxix+544. (London: The Library Association, 1939.) 70s.

THIS index, issued by the Library Association, is arranged under subject headings in alphabetical order, chosen from the alphabetical subject headings in the Library of Congress, U.S.A., with modifications and additions to suit British practice. With some important exceptions, periodicals covered by the *Agricultural Index*, *Engineering Abstracts*, *Engineering Index*, *Index Medicus*, *Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists*, *Photographic Abstracts*, *Science Abstracts*, *Journal of the Textile Institute*, *Royal Meteorological Society Bibliography* and the *Revue de Géologie, Mineralogie et Crystallographie* are not included. The location list first published in the 1937 volume has been retained and gives valuable information regarding the periodical holdings of more than a hundred and seventy of the national, municipal and institutional libraries in the United Kingdom. The locations are tabulated in seven columns, each covering a large area of the country, but the inclusion of a library in the location list implies no guarantee that it is prepared to issue periodicals to outside borrowers. Brief annotations are given where the titles do not sufficiently indicate the subjects of articles, but verse and fiction are not included. Under each heading, articles are arranged alphabetically by authors' names.