

occur. Structural geologists will find here matter of absorbing interest. The first section of this book, that dealing with the general geology of salt deposits, closes with some twenty-one pages of references.

In the second or 'special part' of the volume, detailed descriptions of the salt occurrences of the world are given, the general arrangement being based upon a regional geological foundation. Special attention is directed to the salt deposits of Europe and North America in relation to the large-scale tectonics of these continents. During the War of 1914-18 the virtual monopoly in potash salts possessed by Germany had become forcibly realized by other nations, and consequently there has been, in the post-War period, a strenuous search for new supplies, especially in the United States and the U.S.S.R. Most of the results of these campaigns, especially the Russian, are not readily available, but still Lotze provides a considerable amount of information on non-German occurrences of potash salts. He devotes most

space—more than two hundred pages—to the consideration of the immensely important rock-salt and potash salt deposits of the Permo-Triassic basin of Middle Europe, which include the magnificent German potash salt fields and the not inconsiderable rock-salt deposits of the Trias in Great Britain. The elucidation of the various depositional cycles of the German fields, of the facies changes in them and of the palæogeographical conclusions to be drawn therefrom is made particularly clear. Details of national production are not given; these may be found in the current statistical summaries, such as Roush's "Mineral Industry". This 'special part' of Lotze's volume concludes with nearly fifty pages of references.

Fortified with its bibliographical detail, an index of more than a hundred pages, 353 text-figures and numerous tables, this work provides a summary of all that is known about the geology of a group of rocks of outstanding scientific, economic and international importance.

H. H. READ.

THE AMERICAN OUTLOOK ON COTTON

Cotton

History, Species, Varieties, Morphology, Breeding, Culture, Diseases, Marketing and Uses. By Dr. Harry Bates Brown. (McGraw-Hill Publications in the Agricultural Sciences.) Second edition. Pp. xiii + 592. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc., 1938.) 30s.

IN the enlarged second edition, as in the first, the merits and weaknesses of this book are equally evident. It is a remarkable single-handed production giving the reader a wide view of every part of the cotton field, from the germ cell to the world crop of three million tons. Taxonomy, physiology, agriculture, merchanting, spinning, weaving and statistics are all included. We know of no better comprehensive presentation, and the quality of the citations is such that it can be used as a book of reference.

Its weakness results from the fact that extreme specialization on such a versatile crop as cotton involves the specialist in contacts with every subject under the sun, and in many of these he must be, however unwillingly, a dilettante. Also, he must reside somewhere, and when that residence is in the country which produces half the world-crop of his subject, his presentation must be biased by a tendency to overlook the smaller contributors.

Now, from a cotton-grower's point of view, the United States is mainly a mass-producer of

unspecialized raw material, under conditions which as expressed in terms of yield per acre, are also unspecialized. Thus, while America must form the background to any book on cotton, the most advanced and informative work on cotton is nowadays to be found outside it, from countries where small crops present local difficulties, where specialized crops demand special care, or where, as in Lancashire, economic difficulties demand intensive study and research on the industrial end. This widespread area of information outside the United States of America has not been entirely neglected by the author, but it has not been adequately examined. We doubt whether it could be searched and critically sifted single-handed, but the transactions provided by the Shirley Institute in the *Textile Institute Journal* would be expected to provide some of the references in the chapter on cotton-spinning. Similarly, while Egypt is growing her whole crop from pure-line seed under a system of routine seed-renewal, with a yield per acre which is three times that of the United States and a price per pound which is half as big again, some references to Egyptian publications of later date than contributions by the present reviewer published more than twenty-five years ago should surely be of interest.

Substantially our criticism condenses to the title. If this were "Cotton from the American Point of View", we could praise without reserve.

W. L. B.