

**Bats**

By Glover Morrill Allen. Pp. x+368+31 plates. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1939.) 17s. net.

**T**HIS book is full of information of value to those specializing in the study of bats; but it is written for the general reader. It seems scarcely possible that anyone except a bat-specialist would want to know so many details about bats, and the innumerable names of different species can mean almost nothing to those who have not made a special study of the group. The biologist with special interest in the Chiroptera will find this a really valuable book written by an enthusiast, but will probably skip the unnecessarily large part devoted to popular superstitions about the order. The same amount of space could more profitably have been devoted to classification, which is scarcely touched upon. Many of the photographs are good. A large and useful bibliography is given.

**Ce qu'il faut savoir des insectes**

Par G. Portevin. Vol. 2: Coléoptères et hémiptères. (Savoir en histoire naturelle, Vol. 3.) Pp. 308+14 plates. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1939.) 40 francs.

**T**HIS is an excellent low-priced guide to the orders Coleoptera and Hemiptera. It is primarily a pocket manual designed to aid in the recognition of the chief members and, for this purpose, there are numerous keys to families and genera together with notes on some of the more characteristic species. The text-figures are clear and accurate and the plates are good.

**CHEMISTRY****Reports of the Biochemical Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute**

Vol. 5, 1938-1939. Pp. vii+42 papers. (Philadelphia: Franklin Institute, 1940.)

**T**HIS collection of stimulating scientific publications shows how diverse biochemical techniques, recently discovered in various parts of the world, can be used to supplement one another in the elucidation of particular problems in the attack on disease. Thus in the chemical and microchemical sections the manometric respirometer methods of Warburg and of the Cambridge school together with the Linderström-Lang microtechniques are used to study metabolic and enzymic activities of tissues. The cyclotron is used for the production of radioactive elements which can afterwards be introduced into compounds of biochemical interest, for example, glutathione containing radioactive sulphur. In the physico-chemical and immunological departments, purification and analysis of therapeutic serum antibodies are carried out by the Svedberg ultracentrifuge, and the electrophoretic technique of Tiselius is applied to studies on antibodies from allergic sera.

The Biochemical Research Foundation, which was formerly known as the Cancer Research Laboratories, has now a wider outlook on disease. Its aims are: (1) the study of disease from a chemical

point of view; (2) the study of new compounds for their therapeutic and beneficent effects; and (3) the study of age and the diseases of age. Such problems are attacked from their fundamental basis. For example, pancreatic hormones having blood pressure lowering action and their isolation, one of the many lines of research undertaken by the Foundation, may seem to have little to do with the ageing process, but substances which reduce blood pressure, an age manifestation, have a great deal to do with it.

**Theoretical and Applied Electrochemistry**

By Prof. Maurice de Kay Thompson. Third edition. Pp. xxi+535. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1939.) 22s. net.

**T**HE new edition of this excellent book is entirely re-written, but it preserves all the valuable features of preceding issues. The first part is a compact treatise on modern theoretical electrochemistry which, on account of the concise style, covers all the important branches in a comprehensive and satisfactory way. The second and third parts deal with the applied electrochemistry of aqueous solutions, and with electric furnaces and their products, respectively, and here again the treatment is comprehensive and accurate. The amount of information contained in the book is surprising, and no important branches of the subject seem to have been missed. The literature references are very complete, and the illustrations are clear and well chosen. A particularly valuable feature is the large number of problems and exercises, for which not only answers but also concise solutions are provided. This is a thoroughly satisfactory book, and the author deserves high praise for the skilful and expert way in which he has brought the material together and for the clear and accurate presentation of it.

**GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL****This Way Southward**

The Account of a Journey through Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. By A. F. Tschiffely. Pp. xvi+354+50 plates. (London and Toronto: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1940.) 15s. net.

**M**R. TSCHIFFELY, who had already won a well-deserved reputation as an adventurous traveller in the Americas on horseback, here records the events of another one-man expedition, though in this instance by car. From Buenos Aires he drove down the Atlantic coast of Patagonia to Tierra del Fuego and thence back to Buenos Aires along the western side of the continent by way of the Andes and across the continent. In all, 7,000 miles were covered, the return journey along the Andes involving a number of detours to avoid country unsuitable for the car. This was, indeed, the most difficult part of the journey, and frequently skirted country which is not only unexplored but also probably unexplorable except by air.

On the outward journey the author visited the famous Welsh colony founded in the middle of the