

gestures might have been made easier; "pronated", "adducted", etc., will be unfamiliar terms to many of the wide public by whom this excellent little book should be read.

#### Land Drainage and Reclamation

By Prof. Quincy Claude Ayres and Prof. Daniels Scoates. (McGraw-Hill Publications in Agricultural Engineering.) Second edition. Pp. xi + 496. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc., 1939.) 26s.

THIS work is of the nature of a text-book and as such is particularly designed for American State colleges, in that the usual problems associated with each subject are asked at the end of each chapter. Survey with levelling is taught and then the technique of drawing, the open ditch method and the use of earth dams being especially carefully explained. Land clearing by grazing, cutting and burning encourages soil erosion which has to be controlled. This leads to the consideration of the terracing of fields and the use of check dams in gullies. Finally, sub-surface draining is considered, and the use of mechanical means in the cutting of the necessary trenches for drain pipes. Where there are wide areas of similar land as in Iowa and Texas the methods recommended can be applied. In Great Britain, with its much greater variation in topography and geology, this book will only be helpful in suggesting methods, the consideration of the drainage of each farm being a little research of its own.

#### Begin Here

A War-Time Essay. By Dorothy L. Sayers. Pp. 160. (London: Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1940.) 6s. net.

MISS DOROTHY L. SAYERS, for the moment breaking free from her pre-occupations with the writing of detective stories and the drama, has presented her numerous public with a War-time essay. Her somewhat cryptic title expresses her firm conviction that now and not the end of the War is the time for pondering and planning the post-War world in which we are to emerge from the present struggle. Her vigorous call for constructive thinking on the part of the average citizen for whom she writes is based, as befits so informed a student of the medieval world, upon an acute analysis of the main currents of thought and emotion which contributed to making Europe of the Middle Ages something of a homogeneous whole. Possibly there is a tendency in a certain group of writers on historical topics to over-stress this unity. Be that as it may, Miss Sayers recognizes that the revival of learning and the growth of the spirit of inquiry made impossible a return to that unity of thought and emotion, with all its implications as a condition of peaceful relations among the people of Europe. It is the business of constructive thinking to arrive at a form of relation in modern civilization which in like manner will bring about not a static, but a dynamic, condition of peace. Miss Sayers is emphatic in pointing out that this is to be achieved not by consideration of the requirements of 'economic man' or psychological considerations

but only of the whole nature of man in which the part of emotion as well as reason attains free play.

#### Uses of Lac

By Dr. H. K. Sen and S. Ranganathan. Pp. 79 + 20 plates. (Namkum: Indian Lac Research Institute, 1939.) 1.4 rupees.

THIS little book is intended primarily to interest Indian manufacturers and industrialists as potential users of lac and shellac. The authors point out that since the consumption of lac in India is only 2-3 per cent of the exported amount, there should be considerable room for expansion in that country. The book, however, should have a definite appeal to the average reader, seeking knowledge of the origin and uses of this unique natural resin. Many of the more important applications of this raw material are briefly described and there are numerous practical recipes.

Among the large amount of data given, the table (p. 15) showing the export figures for the past twenty years is of particular interest inasmuch as it demonstrates that lac is more than holding its own in face of competitive synthetic resins.

The book is attractively printed with well-defined headings and sections, and amply illustrated by numerous photographs showing the diverse uses of shellac and its commercial products. The clarity of some of the illustrations, however, appears to have suffered in reproduction.

### PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

#### The Structure of Aristotelian Logic

By Prof. James Wilkinson Miller. (Psyche Monographs, No. 11.) Pp. 97. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE principal aim of this able book is to effect the reorganizations required in traditional logic by the introduction of negative terms, which occurred technically during last century; and also to give a rigorous presentation of traditional logic as containing negative terms.

The former analysis of Aristotelian logic given by the author introduces new definitions, postulates and distinctions necessitated by the symbolization of the system. This formalization makes traditional logic look much poorer than the so-called recent generalizations of the subject. It could scarcely be otherwise; for this treatment of the Aristotelian system takes, so to speak, all the blood out of it. It is not its mere formalization that gives an inferential necessity to this system; but also and mainly its ontological and qualitative background. One without the other gives an unfair picture of traditional logic, especially as the author of the book assumes without proof that the fundamental principles of Aristotelian logic are less general than those of modern mathematical logic. As it is, however, the book should help to build up a more satisfactory valuation of Aristotelian logic, provided one takes into account most of the relevant subjects which the author omits deliberately in his discussion.