

eventually undergo a complex series of changes to yield lignins.

The sterols are much to the fore; one review by C. W. Shopper, of Leeds, summarizes recent work on the steroid sapogenins, the cardiac glycosides and the toad poisons; another on hormones, by J. J. Pffiffer and O. Kamm, of Detroit, emphasizes in particular that relationship of structure to physiological action which is a perennial field of inquiry by chemists.

Biochemistry is advancing from the general to the particular. For example, W. D. Armstrong devotes twenty pages to the teeth under the heading of constitution and properties of dental tissues; Selig Hecht, in thirty pages, describes the chemistry of visual substances, largely the visual purple, regarded as a conjugated protein.

A reviewer can do no more than cite a few headings, avoiding the temptation to dwell on those subjects which have most appeal to him; there comes the reflection, if we only had time to read and try to master the whole. For this is what our medical advisers have to do in the future, though by then it will be presented in potted and tablet form for easy assimilation. One thing is certain, in ten years time there will be as much as ever to discover, even though all we know to-day will then appear as but the foundations of knowledge. Yet some compounds still refuse to give up their secrets: sugar, for example, has not yet been made in the laboratory.

E. F. ARMSTRONG.

## SOCIOLOGY AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

An Introduction to Sociology

By Prof. John Lewis Gillin and Prof. John Philip Gillin. Pp. viii+806. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1942.) 18s. net.

**S**OCCIOLOGY is achieving maturity as a discipline. Its increased recognition in American as distinct from most British universities is indicated by the appearance of university text-books. Whether as a subject it is in any way distinguishable from political science is a reasonable matter of doubt, depending upon whether we understand politics as Aristotle did or as something to do with politicians.

Messrs. Gillin and Gillin omit to note that the State is a modern phenomenon and that political science can scarcely be, and in fact is not, limited to study of it. They do not discriminate here between scientific and popular usage. Aristotle knew nothing like the modern State and begins with discussion of the family. It is not an issue discussed in the present volume. This overlooking of studies in political science, in the traditional acceptation of that word, deprives the book of some of the interest which it might possess, and could with advantage be remedied in a later edition.

Here we have a straightforward text-book of highly commendable lucidity, comprising chapters on population, culture, kinship groups, political constitutions, religious constitutions, social change, delinquency and crime. Some of the 'exercises' appended to the chapters raise interesting questions in the minds of those of us who recall that, for example, Prof. Laski holds (to my mind wrongly) that history and the social sciences cannot be 'objective'. For example, one 'exercise' reads: "What biases would you have to

beware of if you set out to study scientifically fascism? Democracy?" What biases, one wonders, would Profs. Gillin have to beware of? Or Mr. Bernard Shaw? Or the professors of the Marx-Lenin Institute, Moscow?

Owing to the vast field covered, accuracy rather than novelty is aimed at, and the chief significance of this book, for any reader who is not a class student, is that it shows what is the shape increasingly being assumed by this subject in the ordinary teaching curriculum of two distinguished universities. It provides an admirable 'orientation' and general background for more specific studies. Discussions of methodology are reduced to one chapter. But the student who asks for an adventure of ideas in social questions will here find stimulus, and the student perplexed by issues of 'race theory', moral evolution, economic security and the like will be given perspective. As such a guide this manual will doubtless perform a very useful purpose.

GEORGE CATLIN.

## PSYCHOLOGY OF WAR AND PEACE

War and the Psychological Conditions of Peace

By Dr. William Brown. A second and enlarged edition of the author's "War and Peace". Pp. viii+144. (London: Adam and Charles Black, Ltd., 1942.) 7s. 6d. net.

**D**R. WM. BROWN'S volume "War and Peace: Essays in Psychological Analysis" appeared in 1939, and now re-appears in a new edition with a new title. Three new chapters are added, the size of the book being thus increased by about a half. As the earlier chapters were written before the outbreak of war, and the later ones since that event, the reader has an interesting opportunity of seeing how well the author's estimate of the Nazi psychology has been borne out during the last three years. Dr. Brown's qualifications for writing such a book are unique. He has known Germany from his student days, and has kept his knowledge well up to date ever since; he is eminent in the fields of experimental psychology and psychiatry; he gained close knowledge of the psychology of the fighting man in the War of 1914-18 during his four years of active service; and he has taken the utmost pains to understand the mysterious Hitler and his hold upon the German people.

Steering clear of propaganda, and speaking only as a psychologist, Dr. Brown regards Hitler as cunning and clever, but "held firmly in the grip of his paranoid nature". To say that Hitler is only a figurehead is to under-estimate his importance as not only the creator but also the creation of his followers, whose nature is such that it dovetails into his. That there are plenty of Germans who will work for world-peace after the War Dr. Brown is convinced. Meantime the position is full of peril, and when Germany has been defeated and punished she will need re-education, in which process many highly cultured Germans of the older generation will take part honestly and thoroughly.

The general reader will find little difficulty in following the author's argument, but it may be suggested that he will do well to make some preliminary study of paranoia and paranoid tendencies in one of the best treatises on abnormal psychology. Dr. Brown's note at the end of his fifth chapter will be found helpful.