

### Minerals in Industry

By W. R. Jones. (Pelican Books, A.123.) Pp. 149. (Harmondsworth and New York: Penguin Books, Ltd., 1944.) 9d. net.

**T**HIS War, more than any other, has served, through the agency of the Press and the B.B.C., to bring home to the general public the importance to the belligerents of access to sources of minerals of all kinds. It is no doubt widely realized, too, that the question of mineral supplies will, or should, play an important part in international peace settlements, as well as in post-war trade.

"Minerals in Industry" provides in concise and very readable form all the information on the subject of economically important minerals likely to be required by general readers wishing to take an intelligent interest in such matters. The short introduction includes a brief account of the different modes of occurrence of ores and minerals. There follow, in alphabetical order, descriptions of a very wide variety of mineral substances and metallic ores, with notes on their uses in industry and the arts, together with particulars of the chief producing countries and world output. In a number of cases the average annual output from individual countries for the years immediately preceding the War is indicated diagrammatically; and there are outline world maps at the end of the book showing graphically the location of the sources of many of the more important minerals.

The inquiring reader can also glean from this little book why it is so important that a strict blockade of Germany, a country poor in mineral resources, should be maintained. He can further reconstruct for himself a picture of the disruption of the mineral supplies of Britain that resulted, not only from shipping shortage and submarine activities, but also through the spread of hostilities over Europe and into parts of Asia. How these difficulties have been met and overcome is a story that cannot be told until after the War.

Prof. Jones is to be congratulated on the addition of so excellent a book to the Pelican series.

V. A. EYLES.

### The Aborigines—'so-called'—and their Future

By Prof. G. S. Ghurye. (Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Publication No. 11.) Pp. xvi+232. (Poona: Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, 1943.) 8 rupees; 16s.

**P**ROF. G. S. GHURYE, head of the Department of Sociology in the University of Bombay, here examines the position of primitive tribes in India and the question of their administration. He goes into their position with reference to their classification by the Census of India separately from Hindus and other religious divisions, and into the question of their relationship with Hindus proper; he examines their treatment by the Government of India, and by the British Parliament; he examines the reports, and recommendations, which anthropologists have made in regard to them; and finally he states the problem which, in his opinion, the present condition of the hill and forest tribes presents.

Prof. Ghurye is a whole-hearted supporter of the assimilation of the Backward Tribes to the rest of India politically, and has made the best case he could for this view; though he seems to realize the problem involved in protecting the aboriginal tribesman from the chicanery of Indian money-lenders and land-

grabbers, and from the complete unsuitability of proceedings in Indian law courts. He has made himself very thoroughly acquainted with the literature on the subject, but his treatment of authorities does not appear to be entirely disingenuous. Thus he quotes Hutton's statement that the tribesman who claims to be treated as a caste in order to improve his social position frequently succeeds in achieving greater degradation. He goes on to add that Hutton does not attempt to explain why. If he had read to the end of the paragraph he quotes, he would have seen that the explanation given is clear enough; it is that the caste acquired is so often treated as an untouchable one, whereas, so long as the tribesman remains non-Hindu, he is treated with a certain amount of comparative respect. This is an aspect of the problem which Prof. Ghurye has not followed up, though elsewhere he remarks that the Satnami and Kabirpanthi sects are available "for any tribe to take recourse to avoid the stigma of untouchability". Unfortunately, the Chamars and others who belong to those sects are not the less untouchable on that account. Other points on which Prof. Ghurye fails to deal convincingly with his material are his specious argument that infant marriage is preferable to pre-marital license, and his attempt to show that the aboriginal tribes who are on the face of it doubtfully Hindu are quite as much Hindus as many of the lower castes. This may be more or less true in the case of some tribes and some castes, but most certainly does not hold good of all. Prof. Ghurye, wisely for the establishment of his case, avoids dealing specifically with the tribes of Assam, letting their case go with the rest by supposed analogy.

The volume would have been improved by the addition of a proper bibliography of the works quoted, an index, and at least one map.

### Dictionary of Organic Compounds

The Constitution and Physical and Chemical Properties of the Principal Carbon Compounds and their Derivatives, together with the Relevant Literature References. Edited by Prof. I. M. Heilbron and H. M. Bunbury. Vol. 2: Ecaine—Myrtillin Chloride. Pp. viii+892. Vol. 3: Naphthacarbazole—Zygadenine. Pp. viii+978. (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers), Ltd., 1943.) £6 6s. net each vol.

**T**HESE two volumes complete the new edition. As indicated in a recent notice (NATURE, Nov 20, 1943, p. 586), they are reprints of the first edition with supplements containing data collected since the original publication of the work. The supplements comprise 42 pages in vol. 2 and 32 pages in vol. 3. The editors and publishers are to be congratulated on making available under very difficult conditions a new and complete issue of a substantial work of such value in organic chemistry and biochemistry. All practitioners of these rapidly expanding branches of science will hope that here is a dictionary which has come to stay and to keep in step with progress in these vast and complex fields of research. J. R.

### The Microbe Man

A Life of Pasteur for Children. By Eleanor Doorly. (Puffin Story Books, P.S.8.) Pp. 112. (Harmondsworth and New York: Penguin Books, Ltd., 1943.) 9d. net.

**T**HIS is a short and pleasant account of the highlights in the life of Louis Pasteur, written for children in simple language. The illustrations, woodcuts by Robert Gibbings, are handsome, but irrelevant.