

The Navigator's Handbook on Modern Compass Adjusting

With particular reference to Wartime Conditions. By John Calder Gillie. Pp. 110. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1943.) 3s. 6d. net.

MR. GILLIE'S book contains within its small compass all the information necessary for those who wish to understand the factors on which the efficiency of the magnetic compass depends. Among its merits we may refer to its simplicity; it does not require a navigator to understand the nature of the problems. Although it cannot be considered a text-book for examination purposes, it will serve as an introduction to such books. Simple explanations are given regarding the effect of the steel of a ship on the compass, how the disturbing forces are divided into 'co-efficients', the means employed for making the necessary corrections, etc. The principle for degaussing installations—a matter of supreme importance in recent years—is simply explained and also their effect on the compass and the means adopted for overcoming their disturbance. Chapter 9 supplies some simple rules for dealing with compass troubles at sea, and a glossary and index are a useful addition to this highly commendable little book.

M. D.

Principles of Powder Metallurgy

By Franz Skaupy. Translated by Dr. Marion Lee Taylor. Pp. 80. (New York: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1944.) 3 dollars.

IN view of the extreme interest being taken throughout the industrial world in the production of articles made from sintered metallic powders, a survey of existing knowledge of the fundamental principles involved is very much to be desired. Much of this information has been revealed by research, and the time has come when it should be collected and critically discussed.

Although the book is written by an author who has a considerable amount of original work to his credit, this volume does not, in the reviewer's opinion, perform this function. The general treatment is inadequate in view of the importance of the subject, and the English throughout is so bad that even after careful re-reading there are some sentences the exact meaning of which is still in doubt. It would not, for example, be immediately obvious that by "steam" (p. 20) the author is, in reality, referring to a metallic vapour.

F. C. THOMPSON.

Science and Progress

By Dr. S. Lilley. (Story of Science Series.) Pp. iv+68. (London: Cobbett Publishing Co., Ltd., 1944.) 2s. 6d. net.

THIS book is one of a series projected by the Young Communist League. After directing attention to the ways in which science has changed the world's outlook, the author compares the progress of science under various forms of social structure—capitalism, Fascism and in the U.S.S.R. The last chapter deals with science and reconstruction after the War. Throughout the book the importance of organized scientific research is stressed. The author is convinced that this can only be adequately carried out under socialism, and he urges scientific men to fight for the best use of science "as a part of the organised Labour Movement". Half a crown seems a high price for such a propagandist pamphlet.

The Riddle of Cancer

By Dr. Charles Oberling. Translated by Dr. William H. Woglom. Pp. viii+196. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1944.) 20s. net.

IT is often said, and with some reason, that the education of medical men is so specialized that they are turned out incapable of intelligible literary expression. The average book on a medical subject is seldom read with aesthetic pleasure. In "The Riddle of Cancer" we find the exception. To have presented the problems of cancer research in such a form that the survey is complete, lucid, interesting and not only valuable to the medical profession but also instructive to the inquiring layman, is a task for which the author and his translator deserve the highest praise. If standard medical text-books were only written in such a style, the student's work would be made vastly pleasanter.

The subject-matter covers the most important points in the whole field of experimental cancer research in some detail, and with particular reference to the carcinogenic viruses. A description of the general nature of viruses is included. The author is an exponent of the virus hypothesis, but his presentation of the work in other fields has not been allowed to suffer by his beliefs. There are a comprehensive bibliography and an index.

No doctor or medical student could fail to be edified by this fascinating exposition of a subject which is generally portrayed either luridly and inaccurately for the layman or at sombre, ponderous length for the expert.

Chemical Industries

Edited by L. Ivanovszky. Nineteenth edition, enlarged and revised. Pp. xxviii+392. (London: Leonard Hill, Ltd., 1944.) 15s.

THIS edition of a useful publication has been enlarged in many sections. It includes a large number of detailed tables of physical data, properties of many kinds of materials, glossaries giving definitions of apparatus and products (with many clear diagrams), and ample sections on the most varied aspects of chemical engineering. The work is evidence of great skill in assembling and presenting valuable information in a concise form, and should prove of daily service in technical and other laboratories. The advertising material, which is quite separate from the text and takes up only a reasonable amount of the volume, is also instructive in character and likely to prove very useful.

A Concise Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the More Important Drugs, together with an Introduction to the Art of Prescribing

By F. G. Hobart and Dr. G. Melton. Second edition. Pp. xvi+168. (London: Leonard Hill, Ltd., 1944.) 12s. 6d.

THIS is a compact survey of applied pharmacology which can be recommended as a reference book for students in the wards and preparing for examinations. It suffers in places by being so condensed that misinterpretation is possible. The apothecaries system of dosage is used almost exclusively even for drugs, such as those of the arspenamine series, which are never prescribed in any but metric doses. Proprietary names of some drugs are included, and the examples chosen do not always include the one in commonest use.