

to Bolton cotton weavers?); and then a wild leap into the present century and a potted version of the Wool Working Party Report. For earlier periods, Mr. Lipson takes little account of material published since 1921 about wool textile history. Readers are directed to the bibliography of his 1921 publication, and there are no footnote references. The labours of more recent scholars have been in vain. The "Economic History Review" might never have been printed. To give one example, in spite of Prof. Carus-Wilson's account of an "industrial revolution" in the thirteenth-century woollen industry, written largely as a corrective to Mr. Lipson's earlier view of the period, we still find Edward III "reviving" this "decaying" industry.

The two new chapters on wool—English, merino and cross-bred—are interesting. The style of the book is easy to read; but for the serious student this pleasure is marred by the practice of quoting evidence without indicating its origin, or often even its date and author.

E. M. SIGSWORTH

Man Meets Dog

By Konrad Z. Lorenz. (Translated by Marjorie Kerr Wilson.) Pp. x+199. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1954.) 15s. net.

THE ability to write clearly and simply is not always coupled with high scientific attainments; when it is, books to remember result. We recall "King Solomon's Ring", a study of the animal mind, by Dr. Konrad Lorenz. The author now follows it with a volume on the dog, plus the cat, in the same lucid, humorous and unassuming style as its predecessor. He writes of the origin and domestication of the dog, its character, traits and conduct, in a variety of circumstances, including "the inviolable laws governing canine ceremonial, which determine the behaviour of stronger and weaker, of dogs and bitches". The cat, he says, is but a recent recruit and not really domesticated—that is, relatively to the dog, which may have been attached to mankind for 20,000–50,000 or 60,000 years. A word must be spared for the numerous and amusing drawings by the author and Annie Eisenmenges that adorn the pages. "Dog Meets Man" will bring enlightenment combined with pleasure to many readers.

FRANCES PITT

Four-Place Tables of Transcendental Functions

By Prof. W. Flügge. Pp. ii+136. (London: Pergamon Press, Ltd.; New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1954.) 25s. net.

THIS book is mainly concerned with the tabulation of so-called 'non-elementary' functions, many of which were until comparatively recently the esoteric property of pure mathematicians and computers. To many engineers and physicists, they were little more than names, to be seen perhaps in the indexes of more advanced text-books and treatises on mathematical physics, and the few that came face to face with them in their problems were more often than not at a serious disadvantage owing to the extreme scarcity of numerical information concerning their values.

Modern technological developments, involving as they often do considerable incursions into 'non-elementary' mathematics, have created an essential and urgent need for tables of the functions involved, at any rate to what the author describes as slide-rule accuracy. Thus this book, to quote the preface, is intended to meet such requirements and "should be

kept close to the slide-rule, in the middle drawer of the desk and not on the shelf".

Each section is prefaced by an adequate collection of relevant formulæ and bibliographical references to more elaborate and more accurate tables that might be required. Elementary functions are by no means ignored, and in the first two sections are to be found tables of trigonometrical functions in degrees and radians, hyperbolic and exponential functions and Napierian logarithms. The third and fourth sections contain tables of Bessel functions of both kinds, both simple and modified, and the ber, bei, ker and kei functions of Kelvin; the fifth deals with elliptic integrals of the first and second kinds and with all degrees of incompleteness. Finally, a miscellaneous section supplies tables of the error function, the gamma function, and the sine, cosine and exponential integrals.

J. H. PEARCE

Blood Groups in Man

By Dr. R. R. Race and Dr. Ruth Sanger. Second edition. Pp. xvi+400. (Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1954.) 30s. net.

IT is four years since the first edition of Race and Sanger's book was published. In the intervening period an additional blood-group has been described (the Kidd-group), and the pace at which blood-group research is being prosecuted continues unabated.

This new edition is valuable, therefore, since it comprehensively reviews and describes the whole field of human blood-groups and brings us right up to date. There is, for example, an additional chapter on blood-groups and linkage; all this has made the volume bigger than the previous one. This new edition is superior to its predecessor, since it is better balanced and is written with a considerably more critical eye.

In spite of the wealth of information it contains, it is pleasant and easy to read.

This book has now become an established favourite and a standard work on the subject.

F. STRATTON

Biology of Deserts

The Proceedings of a Symposium on the Biology of Hot and Cold Deserts, organized by the Institute of Biology. Edited by J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson. Pp. iv+224. (London: Institute of Biology, 1954.) 14s.

THE papers read at the Conference on the Biology and Productivity of Hot and Cold Deserts which was organized by the Institute of Biology during September 1952 have now been published in one volume. The book is one of compelling interest not only for the skill in which its subject-matter has been chosen but also for the clear and lucid style of the many contributors. The papers themselves are grouped under the headings of climate and physical environment, plant ecology, entomology and ecology, economics and mammalian physiology and ecology; they include such varied topics as the microbiological formation of sulphur in Cyrenaican lakes, origin and development of insect plant pests in the oases of the French Sahara, and, somewhat surprisingly, the influence of climatic factors on the reaction of desert shrubs to grazing by sheep. Besides the papers, the book contains reports of the ensuing discussions; these again are gems of clarity and compression and add to the merits of a volume which should find many readers in biological and other circles. The editor may feel well pleased with his efforts.