

hide and bananas, tended to drop, and synthetic substitutes are threatening raw materials traditionally grown in the tropics, among which the Corporation is directly interested in rubber, hemp, tung oil, and, through tanning materials, in leather, though its interest in ramie has ceased. Moreover, the production of foodstuffs in developed countries can be so increased by application of fertilizers and use of mechanical equipment as to undercut producers in less-developed and more remote lands.

These are all factors of which the Corporation must take account in attempting to assess the profitability of projects in ten or twenty years time, and in selecting projects accordingly. Increasing association with local people in such projects through smallholding and co-operative schemes will not make decisions easier; but the Government, by taking the financial decisions suggested above and by delineating more carefully the spheres of responsibility, could undoubtedly help the Corporation to raise the standard of living in these areas. Even more directly, Government policy could contribute to provide assured markets for the efficient grower of tropical produce; and the dissolution of the Overseas Food Corporation on March 31, 1955, places even greater responsibility in this connexion on both the Colonial Office and the Tanganyika and other African Governments.

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY OF FATS

The Lipids

Their Chemistry and Biochemistry. By Prof. Harry J. Deuel, Jr., Vol. 2: Biochemistry—Digestion, Absorption, Transport and Storage. Pp. xxvi+919. (New York: Interscience Publishers, Inc.; London: Interscience Publishers Ltd., 1955.) 25 dollars.

Fat Metabolism

A Symposium on the Clinical and Biochemical Aspects of Fat Utilization in Health and Disease. Edited by Victor A. Najjar. Pp. viii+185. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1954.) 36s. net.

The Chemistry of Lipids of Biochemical Significance By J. A. Lovern. (Methuen's Monographs on Biochemical Subjects.) Pp. xiii+132. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.; New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1955.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE collection of the greater part of the available information in the vast and rapidly developing field of lipid biochemistry and its integration into a readable text are a remarkable achievement. It is not, however, possible to be both comprehensive and critical over such a wide field. The late Prof. H. J. Deuel, jun., in "The Lipids: Their Chemistry and Biochemistry" (Vol. 2), chose the former course. All the main contributions on the digestion, absorption, transport and storage of lipids are recorded in this book. Where differences of opinion exist, the views of each side are clearly and fairly presented. The author was one of the most active contributors to new knowledge in this field, and he had definite views on most of the problems discussed in

this work. These are indicated, but are not forcefully imposed; the reader is left to formulate his own conclusions. This is an excellent book for the more advanced student. It is likely to serve as a standard work in this field for many years.

The symposium on "Fat Metabolism", edited by V. A. Najjar, is an entirely different type of work, which consists of a series of short lectures by leading authorities. There are eleven main contributions. These include papers by H. H. Gordon and J. Mayer on obesity, and a contribution on the clinical aspects of hyperlipæmia by L. E. Holt. H. C. Meng describes the preparation and use of fat emulsions for intravenous alimentation, and the role of the lipæmia clearing factor in fat transport is considered by C. B. Anfinsen. Fatty-acid oxidation and synthesis, lipogenesis *in vitro* and the role of coenzyme A in such reactions form the subject of three communications by A. L. Lehninger, S. Gurin and F. Lipmann, respectively. Phospholipid synthesis, by A. Kornberg, and cholesterol metabolism in relation to atherosclerosis, by R. G. Langdon, complete a remarkable collection of papers. Four contributions to discussion are also given. The only other aspect that might perhaps have been included with some advantage is the role of the intestine in fat metabolism. This book is an excellent introduction to current problems in fat metabolism, especially for those interested in the medical aspects. As will be expected, each contribution is both authoritative and lucid.

Dr. J. A. Lovern's monograph on the "Chemistry of Lipids of Biochemical Significance" is a concise account of the more important background knowledge required for biochemical studies in this field. The first chapter is concerned with the structure of lipids, a matter that is much under discussion at the present time. A useful section on separation and analysis follows, which reflects the extensive experience the author has had in this field. Having dealt with the study of separated lipids, the forms in which they occur in the tissues, with special reference to lipoproteins, and their turnover, are discussed at some length. Finally, a brief chapter on the functions of lipids concludes a record of the main features of current problems in lipid chemistry that should prove useful to any biochemist.

A. C. FRAZER

POWER AND ENERGY FROM THE WINDS

The Generation of Electricity by Wind Power

By E. W. Golding. (Spon's Electrical Engineering Series.) Pp. xvi+318+28 plates. (London: E. and F. N. Spon, Ltd., 1955.) 50s. net.

BEFORE the industrial potentialities of nuclear fuels began to be clearly realized, the Wind Power Committee of the Electrical Research Association intensified its study of the winds as a supplementary source of synchronous electric power. An all-important impelling factor was the scarcity of coal for the generation of electricity; but importance was attached to an experiment made in the United States in which a 1,200-kW. wind-driven generator had been operated successfully in parallel with a major electricity supply system. The American wind turbine had indeed failed mechanically after a