

### Logic and Existence

By Prof. Martin Foss. Pp. x+240. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1962.) 4.75 dollars.

THE author of this book writes with a deep conviction of the part which philosophy has played not only in history but in present-day affairs in bringing discipline into the realm of thought. Much of what is said amounts to a strong plea for responsibility in mankind's work of ratiocination. There are two main parts, entitled "Abstraction" and "Reality". Running through the argument is a marked axiological thread, courageously facing the problem of value and what it entails. The outcome of this, as might be expected, is that a class of experiences will emerge, the members of which are individual, and, to that extent, unique. They are art, ethics and religion. Naturally, East and West have gone their separate ways, but there is no doubt that Prof. Foss perceives in a picture or a piece of music an emotional event, but subject to some measure of mathematical law. This is only to be loyal to his thesis that philosophy lives doing battle against subjective thinking. Abstraction is almost taken as a crutch to help us along uphill towards metaphysics.

All this is admirable, if slightly unfashionable. What would weld it together a little more convincingly might have been to introduce the 'Gestalt-concept': then, with the help of the law of *prägnanz*, a minimal energy is shown to be implicit (akin to potential theory) in works of art. This method—if teleological considerations are permitted—could allow for (almost demand) the stark element of sacrifice which the writer's 'sacramental' principle requires.

F. I. G. RAWLINS

### Quantitative Chemical Analysis and Inorganic Preparations

By Dr. R. M. Caven. Second edition. Revised by Dr. A. B. Crawford and W. A. Alexander. Pp. vi+428. (London and Glasgow: Blackie and Son, Ltd., 1962.) 35s. net.

THIS book, first published in 1923, and afterwards reprinted twenty times, now appears in a second revised edition. Intended as a teaching manual, it is divided into two sections—Part 1 at the elementary level, and Part 2 at a more advanced level for college and university students, the general effect, enhanced by some duplication of chapter headings, being one of two text-books in one binding. Part 1 is described as covering the preparation of inorganic salts and simple exercises in gravimetric and volumetric analysis, and Part 2, volumetric analysis, gravimetric separations, analysis of minerals and alloys, and preparation of inorganic compounds.

The treatment is on conventional lines and, on the analytical side, is intended to give the student a thorough grounding in classical principles, while the preparations ensure practice in other than purely analytical manipulations. Recent developments in analytical chemistry are represented in Part 2 by a chapter on chelatometric titrations, with six exercises in the use of ethylenediaminetetra-acetic acid, and one of three pages on some applications of ion exchange resin, with two practical examples. The chapter on colorimetric analysis is limited to three determinations by the Nessler technique. In view of the widespread use of the simpler colorimetric instruments and the growing importance of colorimetric methods of analysis, some amplification here

might seem desirable, but the present authors state their intention not to include instrumental methods, which, in their opinion, are adequately dealt with elsewhere and which in any event provide very little opportunity for the student to acquire the basic analytical skills.

The style and manner of the original text have to a large extent been retained in the new edition, with the emphasis on readability as opposed to the almost peremptory conciseness of some present-day text-book writing.

G. A. SERGEANT

### Advances in Clinical Chemistry

Vol. 4. Edited by Harry Sobotka and C. P. Stewart. Pp. xiv+378. (New York: Academic Press, Inc.; London: Academic Press, Inc. (London), Ltd., 1961.) 86s.

AS in earlier volumes of this series, the contents of Volume 4 can be sharply divided into two classes—those dealing with methodology and those dealing with chemical substances or clinical conditions.

The sections on methodology cover flame photometry by I. MacIntyre, immunoelectrophoresis by C. Wunderly and ultramicro methods by van Haga and de Wael, and are given with a wealth of detail and an abundance of useful diagrams.

The other sections include a miscellaneous collection of topics ripe for review, such as the non-glucose melliturias by J. B. Sidbury, jun., organic acids in blood and urine by J. and R. Nordmann, ascorbic acid in man and animals by W. E. Knox and M. N. D. Goswami and parathyroid function by B. E. C. Nordin. The high standard of presentation which one is now accustomed to in this series has been maintained throughout.

J. N. DAVIDSON

### Advances in Spectroscopy

Vol. 2. Edited by Dr. H. W. Thompson. Pp. xi+483. (New York: Interscience Publishers, Inc.; London: Interscience Publishers, Ltd., 1961.) 13 dollars.

THIS is the second volume of a collection of short surveys of developments in all the important branches of spectroscopy over the past few years. These are intended to be easily read and comprehended by spectroscopists working in other fields. The present volume contains nine such surveys on atomic absorption, flame emission, X-ray analysis, nuclear magnetic resonance, infra-red absorption of crystals and of micro-organisms, refraction of gases in the infra-red, ultra-violet absorption of proteins, and the theory of molecular energy levels. Each of these articles is an up-to-date and fairly comprehensive review by an authority in that particular field, although in some cases much of the subject-matter has been recently reviewed in other publications.

In order to cover the vast range of practical and theoretical topics embraced by the term 'spectroscopy', many volumes will be needed to complete this work, and with the present spacing of two years between the volumes, it may never be completed. While there exists a great need for surveys of this sort, it is surely necessary for each volume to be composed of a greater number of shorter articles confined to advances in the preceding two or three years and with a minimum of introductory material.

With these general reservations, this volume is authoritative and well produced, and should certainly be read by every spectroscopist who wishes to keep a grasp on the subject as a whole.

A. KNOWLES