

Russian-English Dictionary of Modern Terms in Aeronautics and Rocketry

By Michael M. Konarski. Pp. xi+515. (London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1962.) 200s. net.

EVEN in these days of inflated prices one might expect to find either colour plates or luxurious paper and printing or, at the very least, gilt-edging in a volume costing £10. This volume has none of these things. One wonders then if the contents are of exceptional value. There are already several good Russian-English technical dictionaries which between them cover the subjects of aeronautics, radio, electronics and missiles which form the bulk of the entries in this new dictionary. There are, for example, the *Russian-English Glossary of Aeronautical Terms* issued by the U.S. Air Technical Intelligence Centre in 1956 and the *Russian-English Glossary of Guided Missile, Rocket and Satellite Terms* issued by the U.S. Library of Congress in 1958. The owner of these two volumes will not find many additional positive entries in the new one. By a positive entry I mean a phrase which has a technical meaning distinct from the word-by-word translation.

A couple of mis-translations have been noted. "magnitnaya anomalija" becomes "magnetic interference" where "magnetic anomaly" is correct, and "sputnik planety" becomes, for some reason, "a secondary planet" instead of "a planetary moon".

At the end of the book there are 20 pages of interesting information including the common English equivalents of Russian aerodynamic symbols and the Russian morse code.

On the whole this is a comprehensive and accurate glossary of the main subjects covered and will be useful to newcomers who can afford the price. R. H. MERSON

Handbook of Medical Laboratory Formulæ

By R. E. Silvertown and M. J. Anderson. Pp. xii+676. (London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1961.) 90s.

THIS book, which is divided into four main sections, namely, bacteriology and parasitology, histopathology, hæmatology and biochemistry, contains 762 different recipes and techniques. The first two sections contain formulæ for many media and stains for which the exact recipe is frequently difficult to locate; rather surprisingly, however, no information is given on any of the preparations required for the handling of viruses. The value of these sections is, however, severely limited by the absence of any comments or criticisms on the relative values of the different methods as this may make it necessary for the user to consult the relevant text-book. These sections, however, are of some value in a laboratory engaged in a large amount of investigational bacteriological and hæmatological work. In the biochemical section many of the techniques reported are rather outdated and no concession has been made for laboratories possessing up-to-date facilities and instruments, as many of the more elegant methods of clinical biochemistry receive no mention.

Each formula is given in considerable detail, but it seems unnecessary to state, after each preparation, that the solution should be bottled and labelled. Mistakes are few, but greater care should have been taken to avoid errors of the type where ammonium sulphate is referred to when ammonium sulphamate is the reagent required. The book contains six appendixes and a good index. Some of the information given in the appendixes is useful although there are seven pages on the concentrations of saturated solutions for which there seems to be little use.

A valuable feature of the book is that a literature reference is given for many of the techniques.

W. A. M. DUNCAN

Introduction to Herpetology

By Coleman J. Goin and Olive B. Goin. Pp. x+341. (San Francisco and London: W. H. Freeman and Company, 1962.) 57s.

THE modest title of this book belies the extent of its contents. Almost every aspect of herpetology is described with remarkable detail; structure of amphibians and reptiles, their origin, evolution, reproduction, behaviour and geographical distribution, as well as the taxonomy of each order.

Although intended primarily for college students who have already grasped the basic principles of biology, the Goins' book can be thoroughly recommended to any one interested in herpetology, including teachers of zoology. It is authoritative and concise and has a clarity of expression which makes it not only an admirable reference book but also a stimulating and easily digested text-book. It is, besides, a thought-provoking work that makes one aware of the problems, particularly in classification, that still exist in herpetology. The classification chosen will be unfamiliar to many who are not specialists in taxonomy, yet there is much to commend it.

It is, of course, impossible to cover such a vast subject in 341 pages without some oversimplification, but brevity has been compensated by suggestions for further reading. Errors or misleading statements are rare; but three concerning the antipodal fauna might be mentioned. The liopelmid frog is not the only frog known from New Zealand, for at least three species of *Hyla* (tree frogs) have been introduced from Australia and have been established for nearly a century. The eggs of the tuatara are flexible and parchment-like, not hard shelled; furthermore, mating has been observed in the field as well as in captivity. A. G. C. GRANDISON

A Manual of Cosmetic Analysis

By Dr. Sylvan H. Newburger. Pp. vi+84. (Washington, D.C.: Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Inc., 1962.) 4.25 dollars.

THIS volume consists of a collection of methods, some hitherto unpublished, developed by the staff of the Division of Color and Cosmetics of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Unlike the methods included in the *Official Methods of Analysis*, issued by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, these have not been the subject of collaborative investigation—a justifiable omission in view of the rapidity with which new ingredients and preparations are developed and old ones become discarded—but they have obviously proved valuable in one of the foremost analytical laboratories.

The very wide range of products covered includes creams, shampoos, lipsticks, nail varnishes and the currently topical aerosol hair sprays to mention but some, and the fact that it has been possible to develop procedures for determining the nature and amounts of the ingredients in these frequently complex preparations is highly commended. Because of the variety of the ingredients, it is inevitable that for some products only general schemes for the isolation of fractions are given, but examples are discussed to give an indication of how to evaluate the results. In this respect infra-red and ultra-violet spectrophotometry and chromatography play an important part.

The methods in this book are not for the novice; few of the procedures are rule-of-thumb and an analyst's skill and intelligence are required to the full. The slimness of the manual does not truthfully reflect the likely value of the publication to all concerned in the analysis of complex formulated products in a wide field covering more than cosmetics. A minor criticism may be levelled at the cover; my copy is already showing signs of wear, and a stronger binding would have been advisable on a bench manual likely to be in constant use. S. C. JOLLY