lung capacity than the American. The basal metabolism also was lower. The effects of climate and diet are under consideration. The factor that influences protein absorption is being studied by her. She suspected that chillies might have some effect but failed to find any. She found that the average South Indian relaxed more easily than the average Westerner.

Reviews.

The Waste Products of Agriculture. By A. Howard and Y. D. Wad, pp. xiv and 167. (London: Oxford University Press, 1931.) Price 7/6 net.

A valuable contribution to an important aspect of agriculture, particularly in the tropics. Written in flowing style and neatly printed on good paper the book makes excellent reading.

The earlier chapters are devoted to the elaboration of principles underlying the need for an increasing supply of well rotted, organic matter and the best method of securing the same. The authors then proceed to describe their Indore method which is presented in the minutest detail. Various observations relating to the nature of the composting materials, nitrogen, air and water are recorded. Possibilities of extending the method to other areas are also outlined. The text is supported by a series of appendices dealing with different aspects of manurial and related problems of which the most interesting is Mr. Howard's contribution to the organization of labour at Indore.

The book would appear to have been written mainly for the interest of the general reader, the benefit of the farmer and the direction of agricultural organizers and demonstrators. The mode of presentation is, however, such that even the most intelligent of laymen would be somewhat puzzled by the free use of technical terms, the severity of the details and wonder whether he could ever dare to improve on the Indore method! To the scientist interested in the compost problem the book is a disappointment. One notes with dismay that there is no mention of the extensive series of researches that led to the logical development of the Indore method; the observations that led to the preference of the pit to the heap; the choice of the nature and proportion of the various ingredients that constitute the biochemical starters of the fermentation; the need for the observance of the various minute details relating to the making of the heap, watering and turning; and the interpretation of the chemical and biological significance of the various observations recorded. The bibliography is not quite so complete as one would expect. There is, besides, an unusual tendency to exalt American work and under-rate or ignore the earlier and more fundamental English researches.

V. S.

Biochemical and Allied Research in India (1931). Society of Biological Chemists (India), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

That the study of biochemistry and allied subjects is expanding in India is fully borne out by the Review of the progress of Biochemical and Allied Research in India, issued by the Society of Biological Chemists (India). This is the second publication of its kind issued by the Society. The first one issued in November last, reviewing the work done during 1930, contained references to 97 original papers. The second issued early in the May of this year contains more than 180 references. It redounds greatly to the amount of work done in India in this most important field of science. The Society has, since its inception two years ago, been doing useful work and the review is one of its most distinguishing features. The review has been divided into 11 sections out of which two sections, *viz.*, Animal Parasitology and Plant Pathological Chemistry, are new additions to the sections found in the first issue. A concise and up-to-date account of the work done in the several branches of Biological Chemistry has been presented in a very neat manner and the Society is to be congratulated on the very valuable work it has been doing. We await further publications of the Society which have been promised in the form of memoirs on important biochemical subjects.

K. S. V.