

established and lavishly used for the interpretations of structures of both inorganic and organic compounds, should have been omitted almost entirely. It is very desirable that this be included in a future edition, as the elementary students should be given an opportunity, whenever possible, of representing the important compounds, such as nitro-paraffins, nitriles, etc., by electronic formulæ. These have been found to help very considerably in removing the difficulties of the beginner in understanding their peculiarities.

Descriptive organic chemistry commences from the sixth chapter with hydro-carbons, both saturated and unsaturated. The chapter on halogen derivatives should perhaps have followed the chapter on alcohols, from which most of the others are derived. The chapter dealing with alcohols has been written ably; in view of the importance of "power alcohol" at present, a short description of the modern method of manufacturing absolute alcohol by the azeotropic distillation process could have been profitably introduced.

The treatment of the matter and its arrangement in the book are both quite satisfactory. Experimental details for preparing most of the important carbon compounds have been given, and, if details of some of the important reactions are also included, the treatment would have been complete. The book is sure to be very profitable for the students preparing for the degree examinations in chemistry of our universities.

B. B. D.

Recent Advances in Sex and Reproductive Physiology (Second Edition). By J. M. Robson. (J. A. Churchill Ltd., London), 1940. Pp. xii + 329. Price 15sh.

Fully appreciating the value of results of recent research, the author has revised the first edition of his book published in 1934. A noteworthy feature of the book is that large sections have been rewritten and "new chapters have been added on the properties of the male hormone and other androgens, on the chemistry of the gonadic hormones and on the methods used in the standardisation of the sex hormones". It would be in the fitness of things to state that the book constitutes a worthy contribution to our knowledge of the subject. The book is well got up and is bound to stimulate further research on various aspects of the physiology of reproduction. Whilst commending its use by the clinicians, the volume is strongly

recommended for an intensive study by mammalian embryologists and physiologists.

A. S. R.

Practical Histology and Embryology. By Nellie B. Eales. (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London), 1940. Pp. vii + 111. Price 3sh. 6d. net.

This little volume on practical histology and embryology is written by an experienced investigator and teacher, with the object of presenting to the pupils and teachers alike, the simple methods in micro-technique which the author has employed with excellent results. The subject-matter is dealt with in two parts. Part I embodies an easily comprehensible account of the structure of simple tissues, glands and tissue complexes. Before proceeding to deal with embryology the author introduces, wisely enough, the student to sections of representative regions of the rabbit embryo. In Part II important features in the development of the frog, the chick and the rabbit are described. The illustrations in both Parts I and II have been selected with great care. The appendix contains the formulæ for the preparation of the commonly employed physiological saline solutions, macerating fluids, fixatives and stains. This low priced handy volume is strongly recommended for use by the students of the pre-clinical classes in medical colleges and the degree classes.

A. S. R.

Dravyamu-Sakti (Matter and Energy) in Telugu, Part I. By Vasanta Rao Venkata Rao, M.Sc., Maharaja's College, Vizianagaram, 1942. Demy 16mo. Pp. 102. Price As. 8.

This booklet explains in simple, homely, non-technical language, in Telugu, the salient points in the subject of "Matter and Energy". It is the third in the series of popular science publications by the author in book form, of the articles contributed by him to the Telugu Journal *Bharati*, having for its object the spread of up-to-date scientific information among the masses. How far he has been successful in his praiseworthy attempt is not known. In the present publication the author prepares the ground for giving to the layman, in later articles, some idea of Broadcasting and kindred subjects of present-day interest. He begins with the old world idea of the molecule and the atom, explains the periodic law of the elements and leads the reader on to the modern conception of the atom,

of which he gives a vivid picture. Then follows an explanation of waves and wave-motion and a description of the penetrating rays beginning with X- and ending with the Cosmic Rays.

The facility with which the author handles his subject is really noteworthy, his simple, homely language not betraying any labour on his part to explain scientific ideas not easy of comprehension even by an intelligent literate public not conversant with the elements of physical science. We wish that the author may be enabled to effect further improvements by giving more detailed explanations of the elements of physical science and by adding neat illustrative sketches.

B. V.

Administration Report of the Madras Government Museum and Connemara Public Library, 1941-42. (Madras Government Press), Pp. 21. Price As. 6.

Of the four chief duties of a museum, collection, conservation, investigation and exposition, the second necessarily assumes abnormal importance in time of war, especially in a coastal city such as Madras,

leaving much less opportunity than usual for the others. This Report shows, however, that while every effort is being made for the security of the collections (though the public galleries necessarily suffer temporary depletion thereby), progress is nevertheless being made in other directions. Popular lectures have been given and have been well attended in spite of the black-out, educational work in connection with schools has continued, and "Bulletins" have been prepared on "Shells and other Animal Remains found on the Madras Beach" (published), "Amaravati Sculptures in the Madras Government Museum" (published since the Report was prepared), "Catalogue of Roman and Byzantine Coins" and "Iravas and Culture Change". The appendices include a complete list of treasure trove finds for the year and of a good number of notable acquisitions. Reading in the Connemara Public Library has decreased somewhat, but this is fully compensated by, and no doubt in large measure due to, increased borrowing of books. It is good to see that both Museum and Library have been so successful in continuing their service in the face of present difficulties.

INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE

Special Tuberculosis Number, October 1942

NEARLY the whole of this issue is devoted to publications on tuberculosis by workers in India. There is an editorial on the subject and twelve articles by different workers. Two further articles are held over for the November number. The increasing interest and importance of surgical treatment of tuberculosis is shown by the publication of three articles on thoracoplasty treatment. Benjamin and Frimodt-Moller report on 150 cases operated upon during the last nine years. Clinically, 46.7 per cent. were much improved and 22.7 per cent. improved. In 39.3 per cent. of cases the sputum became negative. The operative mortality was 9.3 per cent. within one week and 14 per cent. within the first two months. A study is made of the influence on the results of age, sex, side affected, general condition, blood examination, type of lesions and size of cavities, and the reasons for any failure in closure of cavities are discussed. It is found that contralateral disease, if not too extensive, is not a contraindication to operation. The need for the co-operation of different agen-

cies in arranging for thoracoplasty treatment is stressed. The type of operation now used is the modern type performed in two or three stages, two or three ribs being removed each stage, the two upper ribs being removed first.

S. K. Sen describes in detail the development of thoracoplasty operations and the technique of the modern operation, the article being well illustrated. Of twenty-one cases operated on, the mortality rate was 14.25 per cent. and in general the results have been good.

G. Samuel writes briefly on ten patients treated by bilateral thoracoplasty with no mortality and "very encouraging results".

Artificial pneumothorax is discussed in two articles. P. K. Sen and K. N. De present the analysed records of 500 cases treated as out-patients (because of the lack of sufficient inpatient accommodation) at the Medical College, Calcutta, with particular reference to the danger to the contralateral lung. In theory this danger is serious. The analysis showed that of the 500 cases before treatment the contralateral