

the discussions by short historical accounts of the development of our knowledge on the various topics.

The second part of the book is devoted to the development of special organs, and here the author is more confined to the mammals and gives less consideration to the other vertebrates. The method of consideration is that of the study of organs according to their origin in the different layers of the body. These are considered, therefore, under four heads. The organs of the endoderm include the alimentary system in general; the organs of the ectoderm include the nervous system; the organs of the middle germ-layer include the muscles, the urinary and sexual organs. Professor Hertwig's views of the body cavity lead him to the formulation of a fourth layer of the vertebrate embryo, which he calls the intermediate layer or mesenchyme, and the last section of the text-book studies the development of the organs from this mesenchyme. These, according to Hertwig, are the circulatory system and the skeleton.

The special merits of this book are the logical treatment and its consideration of the embryological facts as parts of a system. The general method of the treatment of the subject is a comparative rather than a physiological one, and the text-book will give the student an insight into comparative anatomy but very little consideration of the physiology of the developing embryo. In one of the two sections, it is true, the mechanics of development are considered, but in general, the text-book is a morphological rather than a physiological study. This is, of course, a natural outcome of the line of work in which Professor Hertwig has been so successfully engaged for so many years.

Not the least valuable part of the book consists in the abundant literature. Some fifty pages are devoted to giving the titles and references to the most important papers of vertebrate embryology. The book has, also, another feature, somewhat rare in German scientific books, but of extreme value to students, in the form of short, logical, but intelligible summaries at the end of every section giving in outline the important conclusions.

On the whole, the text-book of Professor Hertwig is probably the best general study of vertebrate embryology that has appeared in the English language up to the present time, and it can be most heartily recommended to all interested in these subjects.

Chemical Lecture Experiments. Non-Metallic Elements. By G. S. NEWTH, F.I.C. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 323 p. 8°.

A BOOK of chemical lecture experiments, carefully classified and systematically arranged, cannot but be welcome to many. Moreover, a book from a practised hand, such as Mr. G. S. Newth, chemical lecture demonstrator in the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, has a particular value in that its experiments are so given as to be readily repeated and are not, as is often the case, merely a statement of the reaction with a few confusing details. Mr. Newth has chosen his experiments well and has described them in clear concise language. The book has a two-fold purpose in easing the labors of the lecturer and of the student alike. For the former it supplies a useful repertoire of lecture experiments and will surely be gladly received, removing, as it does entirely, the humdrum search for such examples and reactions as can be suitably and successfully demonstrated on the lecture table. This, as every lecturer knows, is by no means a small item in the preparation of a lecture, and, moreover, being important, it cannot be carelessly or hastily done. The experiment must be quickly and successfully performed or the interest of the student is turned to illy-concealed ridicule, and the lecturer is, so to speak, lost.

To the student the book appeals in providing a ready reference to serve as a companion in the lecture room, and in supplying the deficiencies of his notes. Indeed, it may in most cases entirely relieve him of the necessity of taking notes upon the experiments themselves, drawings of the apparatus, etc., and he will thus be enabled to devote his attention to the explanations

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

March 14.—Major John W. Powell, A Study in Psychology.

Geological Society, Washington.

March 22.—G. K. Gilbert, An Open Fissure; G. P. Merrill, Remarks on the So-Called Onyx Marbles or Travertines; C. D. Walcott, The Algonkian Rocks of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

Chemical Society, Washington.

Feb. 9.—W. H. Krug, A New Method for Estimating Furfural-Hydrazone; E. E. Ewell and H. W. Wiley, On Some Products of the Cassava Plant. Professor Wiley describes the plant as it occurs in Florida, and says there is every reason to believe that, if the attention of capitalists is called to it, a large quantity of land now covered with pines could be profitably cleared and devoted to the cultivation of the cassava plant. A minimum average yield is four tons of roots per acre, which may be readily increased by proper fertilization to eight or ten tons per acre. Maize could not compete with cassava if the same intelligent cultivation is applied, and there is a prospect that the cassava will eventually take the place of maize in the production of starch, glucose, etc.

March 9.—W. D. Bigelow and K. P. McElroy, Determination of Lactose in Presence of Invert Sugar and Sucrose.

Philosophical Society, Washington.

March 18.—W. H. Holmes, Traces of Glacial Man in the Trenton Gravels; Asaph Hall, The Planet Mars.

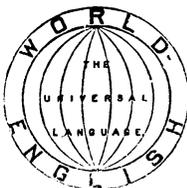
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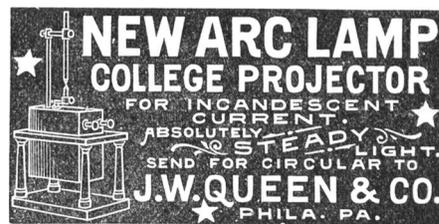
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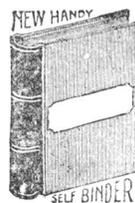
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