

## REVIEWS

**Theoretical Organic Chemistry.** By J. B. Cohen. Revised Edition by P. C. Austin. (Macmillan and Co., Ltd., London), 1942. Pp. viii + 622. Price 10/-.

The latest revised edition of this most popular book on Theoretical Organic Chemistry should be welcome to all students beginning the study of the subject. The book is noted for its clear and concise exposition of the subject which is supported by a large number of carefully selected experiments for illustrating the main reactions of Organic Chemistry. Nearly sixty pages of additional matter have been added since the first edition appeared, and descriptive details for the preparation of important compounds have been included. The general arrangement of the original edition has been adhered to, the enlargement of the text being mostly confined to Parts II and III. Two new chapters have been introduced in Part I—one on stereo-chemistry, and the other on the electronic theory of valency. These two chapters have replaced those on ureides and proteins, the latter having been transferred to Part III, in which a new chapter has been added on compounds of biological importance. In this, the beginner is given a general idea of some of the recent developments which have taken place in vitamins, hormones, plant-pigments, etc. Apart from these, slight additions are noticeable in almost every chapter in the book. The electronic theory of valency, which has now attained such importance, might have been given a more prominent place in the book, and electronic formulæ for organic compounds and interpretations on the basis of this theory of many of the important reactions of organic compounds, such as those of nitro-paraffins, iso-nitrites, etc., might have been given throughout the book in appropriate places. These are, however, minor deficiencies, and the book may be safely recommended to our students of the B.A. and B.Sc. (PASS) classes.

B. B. D.

**Organic Chemistry.** By Sarkar and Rakshit. (H. Chatterjee & Co., Ltd., Calcutta). Revised and enlarged second edition. Pp. 576. Price Rs. 6.

This book is meant to be a text-book in organic chemistry for B.A. (Pass) students. It covers almost the same course as given in *Theoretical Organic Chemistry* by Cohen or *Organic Chemistry* by Perkin and Kippings, Vols. I and II.

The book is divided into 46 chapters of which the first five deal with the general methods such as purification of substances, detection and estimations of elements and determination of molecular formulæ, etc. The next 24 chapters deal with aliphatic portion while the last 17 chapters are devoted to aromatic compounds. Each chapter begins with the most important members of a group of organic com-

pounds followed by general methods of preparation of such compounds and notes on their industrial importance. At the end of each chapter are given exercises bearing on the subject-matter dealt with in the chapter.

A special feature of the book is the pointed reference it makes to the industrial importance of the substances to India. On this account the book makes a stimulating reading even to the general public. The treatment is complete and the information given is up to date. The illustrations are attractive, the printing is clear and the typographic errors are surprisingly few. The book can be heartily recommended as worthy of consideration as a text-book for B.A. (Pass) students.

K. S. N.

## FISHES OF LAHORE

**Fauna of Lahore—5: "Fishes of Lahore".** By Nazir Ahmad, *Bull. Dept. Zool. Panjab Univ.*, 1, 253-374; 49 figs. and 1 map (July 1943). (Published by the Punjab University.) Price Rs. 4.

The *Ad hoc* Fish Committee of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in its meeting of the 9th November 1937, in considering practical development of fish industry in India, expressed the opinion that

"In order to effect development upon satisfactory lines, it was necessary to carry out local surveys of the amount and class of fish available and in this connection proper identification of the fish caught in each area was essential."

From the above it will be clear that the proper study of the fish fauna of a locality is a condition precedent to the development of its fishery resources. Viewed from this standpoint, the publication of *Fishes of Lahore* is a welcome addition to a number of articles that have appeared in recent years, such as *Fishes of Northern Bengal*, *Fishes of Travancore*, *Fishes of Mysore*, *Fishes of Hyderabad*, and the results of faunistic surveys carried out by the Zoological Survey of India from time to time in different parts of the country.

The author of the *Fishes of Lahore*, off and on, spent two years in making a thoroughly representative collection of the local fishes occurring within a radius of about fifteen miles from the Zoological Laboratory, Government College, Lahore. After a preliminary identification of the species with Day's standard works on Indian fishes, he took the trouble to compare his specimens with the named material in the collection of the Indian Museum and to consult literature in the library of the Zoological Survey of India for nomenclatorial purposes. A certain amount of information on the bionomics and life-histories of the species studied are also given either from personal