

phosphorus. The chemical nature of catalase has been reviewed by Summer and the functional character of the low molecular weight prosthetic groups—coenzymes which include vitamins, heavy metals, etc., is discussed by Green whose share in the development of this field has been large and spectacular. Other contributions include reviews on photosynthesis, Bacterial photosynthesis, Enzymatic processes in living plants and the Digestion in lower vertebrates. It will thus be seen that the volume covers a wide and comprehensive field of Enzymology and related subjects. Scientific workers will feel particularly grateful to Professor Nord and his collaborators for inaugurating this series and we wish to take this opportunity of wishing their venture an uninterrupted career of service in promoting the advancement of Enzymology.

Modern Pottery Manufacture. By H. N. Bose. (Ceramic Publishing House, 1, Church Road, Bhagalpur), 1942. Pp. vi + 481. Price Rs. 6-8-0.

This book has been written mainly as a text-book for undergraduate students of ceramics in India, but it will also be found useful to many practical workers in the field, particularly for the assortment of practical formulas using Indian raw materials which have been tried out by the author in the laboratories and ceramic plants of the Benares Hindu University. Considered purely from the didactic point of view, there is scope for improvement in the presentation: expressions such as "graphite is a peculiar form of carbon" on page 320, and elementary portions such as the "mathematical calculations" on page 437, can be eliminated, and some of the diagrams such as Figs. 6, 23, 25 and 51 can be corrected and improved. An index will add considerably to the value of the book as a reference volume, particularly as it embraces all the different branches of the subject such as porcelain, stoneware, refractories, fuels, furnace and kilns, in one handy volume. We do hope that in the future editions to come, this essentially practical volume will grow to a higher standard of usefulness to all ceramists in India.

The book is rightly dedicated to "Reverend Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the great Indian Educationist, who had the keen insight to recognise the importance of Ceramics to India, and first started the scientific training in the subject in the Benares Hindu University. S. J.

Pheretima (An Indian Earthworm). By Karm Narayan Bahl. (*The Indian Zoological Memoirs*, Lucknow), January 1943. Price Rs. 1-12-0.

The series of Zoological monographs entitled "Indian Zoological Memoirs" is so well known to all zoologists in this country that it should not need any further introduction for the readers of *Current Science*. It may, however, be noted that the series was started in 1926 under the editorship of Dr. Karm Narayan Bahl, Professor of Zoology, Lucknow University, and eight memoirs have already been published. The memoir under review is the third edition of the first memoir of the series, the editor's *opus magnum*, on *Pheretima* (an Indian earthworm). The first edition was published in 1926, the second in 1936, while a new and entirely revised edition has been issued in January 1943. The usefulness of the work can be gauged from the fact that within less than two decades two new editions have been issued.

The work, as it stands, is probably the most complete account available of any of the commoner Invertebrates of India. The author has spared no pains in bringing the text up-to-date by incorporating the results of all recent work, by thoroughly revising the descriptive account, and by the incorporation of additional illustrations. He has also indicated where our knowledge about this worm is deficient and where further research is desirable. The memoir is excellently printed and is remarkably free from misprints. The author deserves the best thanks of the zoologists in India for this excellent memoir, and it is hoped that further volumes in the series will be published as and when ready so as to provide students of Indian Zoology with authoritative accounts of various Indian types. B. P.

INDIAN STATISTICAL CONFERENCE

A LAST minute change in the venue of the Conference, the inability of the Governor of the Province to open the Session in person and with customary ceremony, a demonstration at the gates timed to synchronise with the arrival of the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and above all, the threat of air raids and the sight of enemy aircraft actually brought down in wreck and fire in the area, are not occurrences expected by any known statistical law or hypothesis and yet the goodness of fit between the Sixth Session of the Indian Statistical Conference at Calcutta in January last and the previous five annual meetings is both high and helpful. There was a Message from His Excellency the Governor which reminded that when peace comes, when

commerce, future of industry and of the economic life of the peoples have to be planned, it is statistical science that would largely help in fashioning them. The Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarkar stressed the same thought in his presidential address. "It is well nigh impossible", said the President who is also the Commerce Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council, "to prosecute a totalitarian war without the aid of the statistician at every turn. Problems of price control, rationing, production and distribution of food and clothing, maintenance of real wages and regulation of dearness allowance, all these required careful collection of data and the scientific study of relevant statistics."

The stage thus set was a valuable lead to the scientific meetings of the Conference. In