

- "Journal de Chemie Physique," Tome 30, No. 10 and Tome 30, No. 1.
 "The Review of Scientific Instruments," Vol. 5, No. 2.
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 "Medico-surgical Suggestions," Vol. 3, No. 2.
 "Electrotechnics," No. 7, March 1934.
 "Archiv fur Zoologie," Band 25, Hafte 4 and Band 26, Haftes 1 and 2.
 "Forschungen Und Fortschritte," Jahrgang 10, Nos. 6 to 8.
 "Indian Journal of Physics," Vol. 8, No. 3.
- "Transactions of the Mining and Geological Institute of India," Vol. 29, Part 1 and List of Members for 1933-34.
 "Journal of the Russian Chemical Society," LXV, Tom III, Bb III, 7 and 8.
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 "Indian Forest Records," Vol. 19, Parts IV, VI and VIII.
 "The Nagpur Agricultural College Magazine," Vol. 8, No. 3.
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Reviews.

ELEMENTARY CHEMICAL THEORY AND PROBLEMS. By N. M. Shah. (Published by the Karnataka Printing Works, Dharwar. Pages 145.) Price Re. 1.

The author claims that a special feature of the book is that every chapter is introduced with a clear and complete account of the main principles involved in its subject-matter. But the explanation of the theoretical principles seems to lack in rigour and thoroughness. Considering that the book is meant to satisfy the advanced needs of the I.Sc. students, the details regarding estimations of elements in organic compounds seem to be superfluous. A number of examples have, however, been completely worked out in each chapter and the various steps are well explained. Further a large number of exercises have been given at the end of every chapter. The get-up of the book is not as good as is desirable.

M. SESHAIYENGAR.

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SEX AND SEX ETHICS. By Rene Guyon. Translated from the French by J. C. and Ingeborg Flugel with an Introduction by Norman Haire. (The International Library of Psychology and Sexology. John Lane, The Bodley Head Limited, London, 1933.) Price 15s. net.

The sale of this book is limited to certain professions and research students. We do not know whether official censorship has imposed this restriction. We can, however, discover nothing in the book which may be presumed to offend the public sentiment of decency and morals; rather a perusal of it is, in our judgment, calculated to elevate and strengthen them.

Undoubtedly the book is a notable contribution to sexological literature, absolutely pure and scientific in the exposition of the several aspects of the sex problem, catholic and courageous in outlook and logically correct in conclusions regarding the various codes of sexual morality. The author is an advanced rationalist whose judgments are unfettered by the conventional shackles of religion which surround our sexual ethics. Few can brush aside the hard shell of prejudice and convention which are believed to secure the stability of society and can examine the sexual phenomena and morality in a strictly detached scientific spirit and subject the various forms of sexual self-expression popularly known as aberrant to philosophical or logical criticism. Conventional modes of thinking and social prejudices die hard and people brought up on the milk of religious traditions have no patience with any attempt, however necessary, to revise our old sexual conventions. Sexuality under the sanction of the duly appointed priests and with the official approval of parents, is recognised by law, praised by society and exalted by religion but its manifestation outside this formal limit or in any altered form is condemned by bell, book and candle.

Commencing with the study of sexuality from an historical and phylogenetic standpoint, the author arrives at certain conclusions regarding sexual responsibility, modesty and the justifiability of certain taboos concerning certain acts and bodily organs. It is extremely doubtful whether public opinion will approve of the author's views about chastity and its exaltation as a virtue by moralists, but his penetrating study

of the question is entitled to praise. According to him the usually accepted conception of normal and abnormal sex life is really based on a want of proper appreciation of the natural modes of its expression in infancy. It is true that from a physiological standpoint, the pleasurable sensation due to excitement is subordinate to the more fundamental function of procreation, but it is for procuring the former that lives are sacrificed. The author takes what might appear an ultra radical, but really the only possible view of the theory of psychoanalysis, *viz.*, the sexual ethics which is faulty must be revised rather than the patient should be taught to adapt himself to an irrational system. He examines certain "extraordinary" practices such as onanism, incest, homosexuality and comes to the conclusion that they are neither "abnormal" nor "sinful". The subject of "love" expounded in the penultimate chapter of the book is brilliantly analysed and the author preferring to call it "individual love" condemns its exaltation at the expense of other forms of sex manifestation.

Sex problem is hardly yet regarded as a vital public question and the prevailing opinion is that it is best left alone. There is an element of apprehension that the public discussion of what is avowedly looked upon as a delicate and private subject will stimulate endless curiosity and probably may lead the younger men and women into devious paths. Society as it is at present constituted is based on conventions and if the latter were to be upset, the whole structure of the former is likely to crumble. It seems to us that the proper attitude of the public to the sex problem should be to remove the unmerited foolish shame which surrounds it and treat it with no more delicacy than any scientific topic is dealt with. The progress of knowledge implies continuous revision of views generally accepted as inviolable and if old mouldered code of morality is to be replaced by a new dispensation, society should have sufficient resource to readjust itself to the new spirit and the teachings of science. The book delivers the new message, which is ultimately bound to be accepted as an article of scientific humanism.

The book is admirable. If the author needs courage to expound his doctrines, the reader requires more courage to read them. We do not anticipate that the book will be welcomed by the intellectually timid and the sacerdotal section of the people but

that this new code of sexual ethics will eventually become the creed of reformed society of the future, few will doubt.

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MAN AND WOMAN IN MARRIAGE. By C. B. S. Evans, M.D., F.A.M.A., with an Introduction by Rudolph W. Holmes, M.D., F.A.C.S., and a Preface by Norman Haire, Ch.M., M.B. (The International Library of Psychology and Sexology. John Lane, The Bodley Head Limited, London, 1933.) Price 5s. net.

Judging by the advertised articles, the requirements of modern civilised man (and woman also) are bewilderingly varied and numerous. In fact from the date of his or her birth, the needs of the individual for a "happy and fashionable life" are carefully thought out and sold at "moderate price". Misshapen parts of human body can be rendered handsome at a small cost, those that are deficiently formed or are lacking can be made full or are supplied for a trifling consideration. The skin is treated, the brain is trained, the limbs are made strong, the bath is medicated, the food is supplied in tins of vitamins, the hair converted into any desired colour and curls, the nose may be grown to the fashionable size and straightness and all the internal viscera and endoskeleton can be adjusted to carry out their proper physiological functions and as for toilet and articles of dress, one has to look into the advertisement pages of any popular magazine to be convinced that they are not so simple as might be imagined. The make up of a society woman is manifestly an elaborate and tedious affair and if cleverly carried out, will cover up any natural defect. Frequently it happens that a steady resort to artificial means of improving looks which do not require any adventitious aids, may result in worsening them and a continuous application of irritating or "soothing" chemical preparations instead of improving might produce undesirable effects in the long run. Perhaps the safest thing is to rest content with what nature has endowed us with and carry our face and features as God made them.

We are puzzled to be told that men and women require advice as regards the facts of their married life. This department of life, we had thought, was too intimate and natural to be made the subject of public discussion. It is true that it has now become most unfortunately necessary to educate the public on marriage or sex hygiene but this can be imparted to the young men either as

a course of instruction in science in the schools and colleges or as part of the University Extension Lectures or the information may be given through a series of illuminating articles in the newspapers. The conditions of modern life have introduced dire sex diseases whose spread and ravages must be combated by every means at our disposal. It is, however, surprising to be told that a large number of men and women are in need of instruction in the performance of the most natural and instinctive functions to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. Drugs which are alleged to improve and strengthen the exercise of these functions and books which purport to give advice on them must be popular at all times among the neurotically disposed persons.

We have read this book with considerable amusement. Obviously the modern educated man and woman need instruction and advice on matters which their less favoured brethren and sisters can manage without books and drugs. According to the testimony of the author, there are several thousands of persons whose married life can be rendered happy by timely and hourly advice and who without it are apt to lead a sexually starved existence. We have every reason to regard this statement as substantially true and in every such case, the advice given in the book will be found competent, wholesome and satisfactory. Perhaps over-education renders people over-nervous and the nervous energy primarily intended for procreative purposes, if prematurely expended in enriching the mind, must result in an impoverishment of the rest of the body.

The book gives excellent advice to people who require it. To write such a book may be an act of public service. But a greater and more enduring service to humanity would be to investigate and remove the causes which lead men and women to accept such advice. It seems to us that the false shame which surrounds the subject of sex and which is so productive of evils, must be one of those causes and if it were so, the remedy is obvious. Young men ought to receive as a part of their education instruction as regards the biological import of sex life, its intentions and implications from the sociological and philosophical standpoint, with due emphasis on its practical and hygienic aspects. Under the influence of modern excitement, young men are apt to forget that their sense of self-respect and their instincts of personal dignity demand

conservation of nervous energy which like worldly treasure should be augmented rather than extravagantly expended. The road to its enrichment is a simple and God-fearing life. If you cannot walk on this path, then read and profit by Dr. Evans' book on *Man and Woman in Marriage*.

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EIGHTEEN YEARS ON LAKE BANGWEULU. By J. E. Hughes with an Introduction by Major H. C. Maydon. (Published by the Field House, Bream's Buildings, E.C.4, London.)

The author says that "the writing of this book has been a tougher task than stopping a charging buffalo". This does not appear to be the experience of most modern writers and the general reader might be tempted at certain moments to wish that these authors also found at least occasionally that it was so with them. The book is an excellent contribution to our knowledge of the Geography of that portion of Africa between Belgian Congo and North-East Rhodesia and its interest is not confined to sportsmen alone. The picture of the country with its lakes, rivers, mountains, marshes, forests and wild game together with a description of the native inhabitants, their manners, customs, habits, dwellings, dress, food and social organisation and powers of educability, has an irresistible attraction and we confess that we have read the book with great pleasure and profit.

Geography teaching in the schools has no doubt undergone within recent times a considerable change, but still there is pathetic adherence to the practice of memorising details of produce of countries, lists of the names of towns and the pupils generally fail to develop a mental picture of the country as a whole. It is not uncommon to find among even highly cultivated people, instances of gross ignorance of simple, elementary geographical facts and few among the educationalists realise that the proper and efficient teaching of Geography entails a deep knowledge of cultural and physical Anthropology, Ethnography, Geomorphology, Climatology, Biology and the physical sciences. It may be true that we may not find at the present moment teachers possessing such an ideal equipment, but if the subject is to be taught in all its scientific bearings and human significance, then it is manifest that we have to take measures for providing our teachers of Geography with the necessary training in all the collateral

branches of knowledge. In certain provinces of India, Geography is a neglected field, being made an optional study in the high school curriculum. We are not quite sure whether this sort of educational reform is an indication of wisdom. It is impossible to follow a modern newspaper without an adequate knowledge of the World Geography and we do not sufficiently appreciate that the geographical facts lend themselves to be treated from the scientific and human standpoints and as an instrument of education, its power and influence are far superior to any of the subjects which form the core of compulsory studies.

The chief merit of the book is that its chapters provide independent topics for study and one may commence from any chapter and obtain a vivid picture of a portion of the extensive territory forming the subject-matter of the book. We have ourselves followed the usual practice of reading books and every page has an account either of a thrilling encounter with some one or other of the big game, or village life, river system, picnic party, crocodile hunt, seasons and climate, fauna and flora of the plains and mountains or the geological formation of the different areas. The observations recorded in the book have a great value to the scientist and the explorer and the notes given in the appendix provide equally interesting reading. We have here a good book, written in simple and elegant style, vividly portraying everything worth knowing about Central Africa and forming a valuable contribution to the Geographical literature. We are tempted to suggest that everyone wishing to have a closer acquaintance with this interesting continent and more especially teachers of Geography must possess a copy of this book.

After reading the book, we cannot refrain from feeling that the destructive activities of the sportsman must eventually result in

the upsetting of the balance of nature much to human detriment. The indiscriminate slaughter of animals having scientific and economic interest, must necessarily produce repercussions whose consequences we may not foresee at present, but undoubtedly are bound to be deep and far-reaching. Is it humane or necessary to go so far afield to kill animals and seek pleasure in their death agonies?

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LES FONDEMENTS DE LA THEORIE DE LA RELATIVITE GENERALE; THEORIE UNITAIRE DE LA GRAVITATION ET DE L'ELECTRICITE; SUR LA STRUCTURE COSMOLOGIQUE DE L'ESPACE. Par Albert Einstein; Traduit de l'allemand par Maurice Solovine. (Paris: Hermann et Cie, 1933.) Prix 35 fr. broché.

The brochure is a collection of three papers by Einstein translated into French by Maurice Solovine. The first of these papers is the classical one of 1916 on the General Theory of Relativity. The second is the work of Einstein and Mayer containing the new unified theory of Electricity and Gravitation, based on the five dimensional theory of Kaluza and communicated to the Berlin Academy in 1931. The third is the translation of an article contributed in September 1932, giving a summary of the ideas that led to the theory of the Expanding Universe and showing that there is no reason to suppose that space is curved. The importance of these papers needs no new mention and the publishers must be congratulated on making them available to a larger public. The elegance and clarity of the French language have made every one acquainted with it wish for and welcome a translation into it of any abstruse disquisition. We are sure that the translation will find a large circle of grateful readers, who will also be delighted to find a good portrait of Prof. Einstein at the beginning of the book.