

expected considering the fluctuations in price which have occurred during the last few months. The titles of one or two important works do not appear, but inquiry elicits the information that they are out of print, and thus do not come within the scope of the book. What at first appears to be an omission of the valuable Reports on the Progress of Applied Chemistry, published by the Society of Chemical Industry, is evidently due to the decision that the books included should be obtainable through booksellers in the usual way. The reason for the inclusion of a work on "Sea-water Distillation" under the heading of General Chemistry is not quite easily explained, but it is probably due to a mechanical error in sorting. Such slight blemishes do not, however, detract from the value of the book, and considering the amount of tedious work which must have been incurred in its compilation, it is a matter for congratulation that so few occur.

Booksellers and librarians would be well advised to include a copy amongst their works of everyday reference, as they will find that it will save them a great deal of unnecessary labour.

The volume is well printed, and the binding should stand considerable wear and tear. An unusual feature is that the end papers are wholly reinforced with a fine gauze or "mull," in a manner which should tend to strengthen the binding very materially.

The British Science Guild has produced a notable volume, and it is much to be hoped that its sale will justify the expressed desire to issue an annual edition.

F. W. CLIFFORD.

### The Statecraft of Ancient Greece.

*The Works of Aristotle.* Translated into English under the editorship of W. D. Ross. Vol. 10, *Politica*, by B. Jowett; *Oeconomica*, by E. S. Forster; *Atheniensium Respublica*, by Sir Frederic G. Kenyon. (Unpaged.) (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1921.) 15s. net.

THE new volume of the Oxford Aristotle will probably appeal to a wider range of readers than any of the others, because it deals with statecraft, theories of government, economics, and constitutions. The "Politics" is no doubt the best known of Aristotle's works outside the body of students who have had to read the treatises for university courses. This is in large part due to the splendid translation made by Jowett in 1885. It is this translation which is reprinted in the present volume, revised and brought up to date by Mr. W. D. Ross, the editor of the series. With it is included Mr. E. S. Forster's transla-

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tion of "Oeconomica," an Aristotelian work which is not by Aristotle, but attributed by the translator to a disciple who lived earlier than the second century B.C. The third work in the volume is the treatise on the constitution of Athens, discovered in a papyrus in 1891. The translation is that originally made by Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, but now revised by him and in part reconstructed from fragments since discovered.

When we read Aristotle we have to keep reminding ourselves that we live in a different world, for he seems to be discussing always our own modern problems. It is difficult to realise that questions so vital to us were commonplace in the ancient world, and we are often tempted to exclaim with the Hebrew preacher, "There is nothing new under the sun." It must be rather a shock to those who have heard of Thales of Miletus as the first of the great line of Ionian natural philosophers to be told that he once enriched himself by cornering the olive presses. Certainly the moral Aristotle draws is designed to show that the philosopher despises wealth, for he has the opportunity of acquiring great riches if he chooses to use his wisdom for a worldly end. The other story of the man of Sicily, presumably a banker, who used the money deposited with him to buy up the iron-ore, and made a profit for himself of more than 200 per cent., has a still more curious moral. The man was expelled from Syracuse as a dangerous person who might get too rich, but he was allowed to take his money with him! Aristotle's moral is that the State would do well to take example from him. Even "the Great Illusion" was exposed in the ancient world, and produced, in one instance at least, more effect than Mr. Norman Angell has produced in our generation. We are told that "Eubulus, when Autophradates was going to besiege Atarneus, told him to consider how long the operation would take, and then reckon up the cost which would be incurred in the time. 'For,' said he, 'I am willing for a smaller sum than that to leave Atarneus at once.' These words of Eubulus made an impression on Autophradates, and he desisted from the siege."

H. W. C.

### Our Bookshelf.

*The Outline of Science: A Plain Story Simply Told.* Edited by Prof. J. Arthur Thomson. Pp. ii+40. (London: G. Newnes, Ltd., n.d.) 1s. 2d. net.

FROM its title this work (which is to be completed in about twenty parts) claims no more than to give an *outline* of science. Astronomy occupies