

the sections on the heredity of human traits and human defects. Many additions might have been made here even without encroaching on the medical literature. But although completeness is obviously impossible, and the topics of the author's special interest are naturally emphasised, yet this work will occupy a useful place as a first book of reference on any topic connected with eugenics.

*The Road-Books and Itineraries of Great Britain, 1570 to 1850: a Catalogue with an Introduction and a Bibliography.* By Sir Herbert George Fordham. Pp. xvi + 72. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1924.) 7s. 6d. net.

ROAD-BOOKS and itineraries are dear to the heart of the collector, but, unlike most collectors' books, they have a wider interest, and their value to the antiquarian and the topographer is considerable. Many, however, and especially the earlier, are rare and difficult to obtain, and Sir H. G. Fordham's bibliography, which is a revised and amplified reprint of a paper published in the Transactions of the Bibliographical Society in 1916, will be of considerable assistance to those who wish to make use of the material to be found in these guide-books of our ancestors. In this catalogue, road-books are taken to include only such as set out individual roads, with distances and stages all grouped together as a book or atlas, and prepared for the use of travellers. They may vary from a mere enumeration of stages to a full descriptive text. The earliest entry is John Leland's Itinerary published in or about 1535-1543. In the later part of the sixteenth century tables of the principal British highways based on the old British mile of 1500 Roman paces, equivalent to 2428 statute yards, were associated with lists of fairs for commercial purposes. Tables of highways of a similar type were published by Charles Étienne in 1552, while in Germany the earliest would appear to be a publication of 1597, containing 187 roads on the Continent and eleven from London to various parts of England and Wales.

*Principles of Electroplating and Electroforming (Electrotyping).* By William Blum and George B. Hoga-boom. Pp. xii + 356. (London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1924.) 20s. net.

THE work under notice has been written mainly to help those employed in the industry to understand and apply results which have been obtained in research laboratories. The authors have taken a leading part in the investigation of electrotyping and electroplating processes at the U.S. Bureau of Standards. They divide electrodeposition into four main fields: Electrorefining, electrowinning, electroplating, and electroforming. The last is a new word and is defined as "the production or reproduction of articles by electrodeposition." It is suggested as a substitute for the archaic word "galvanoplasty" which is still sometimes found in text-books.

The very extensive use of iron and steel for constructional purposes, and the fact that they rust when exposed to air, has led to numerous investigations as to the causes and methods of preventing corrosion. Many of the investigations were carried out during the War and the general results obtained were summarised in Circular 80 of the Bureau of Standards. It appears

that of all commercial metallic coatings, zinc is much the best protector. It is very desirable that zinc plating should be applied much more extensively in industry than it is at present. Unfortunately zinc coatings have not a pleasing appearance. When a bright metallic lustre is essential, nickel is superior to any other material. This book contains a great many valuable hints and can be recommended to those technically interested in the subject.

*The Growth of Civilization.* By W. J. Perry. Pp. viii + 224 + 8 maps. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 6s. net.

In this volume Mr. Perry restates in a more popular and abbreviated form the arguments put forward at length in his earlier works, "The Megalithic Culture of Indonesia" and "The Children of the Sun," for the diffusion of culture from one common centre, namely Egypt. It forms a companion volume to his book on "The Origin of Magic and Religion," which indeed is essential for the complete grasp of the argument here stated, as in the latter he expounded the theory of the magical influence of gold and other substances which supplied the motive for the wanderings of the people by whom the "archaic culture" was carried to various parts of the world. This book is, however, not merely a condensation of earlier work. It embodies much evidence not previously considered, especially in the later chapters, in which he deals with the coming of the warriors by whom the archaic civilisation was overthrown in various parts of the world, and discusses the theory that traditions of royal descent from deities derive from contact with Mediterranean culture and ultimately from Egypt. Mr. Perry's statement of what is undoubtedly a difficult and highly controversial case, leaves little to be desired in point of lucidity.

*Faune de France. 7: Pycnogonides.* Par Prof. E.-L. Bouvier. (Federation française des Sociétés de Sciences naturelles: Office central de Faunistique.) Pp. 70. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1923.) 8 francs.

PROF. BOUVIER points out in his introduction that the pycnogonids of the French fauna have never been studied in systematic fashion. There are memoirs by Hoek on the species found at Roscoff, by Grube on those of S. Malo, and a recent account by Cuénot of his observations on pycnogonids at Arcachon. The author has turned to G. O. Sars' well-known monograph and to that of Dohrn for further information, and from these and from Hoek's work he has borrowed most of the figures used in the present volume. He gives an account of the external morphology, the internal anatomy, and the development and biology, and in a brief discussion of the affinities states his view that the pycnogonids are arachnids. In a short reference to the forms with five pairs of legs, e.g. Decalopoda, he concludes that these are primitive relatively to Colossendeis. Keys are given for the orders, families, genera, and species, and with the help of these and the clear illustrations the determination of any given specimen is fairly easy. This concise memoir will be very useful to collectors on the shores of Great Britain who have an interest in this group.