

months May to August. This is more than 20 times greater than the normal for London. A summary is given of the winds at selected stations in the tropics, and notes are inserted on the state of the ice in the Arctic seas and in the North Atlantic Ocean.

*Agrikulturchemie.* Bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. F. Honcamp; in Gemeinschaft mit Dr. O. Nolte. (Wissenschaftliche Forschungsberichte: Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe, Band 10.) Pp. viii + 160. (Dresden und Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff, 1924.) 0.95 dollar.

THIS small paper-covered volume is a review of the more important investigations in agricultural chemistry published during the years 1914-1920. It is specially intended to help workers who were, perforce, unable to keep in touch with their subject during those years and have not time to go through back numbers of journals. It seems a little late to bring out a summary down to 1920 only; but, in explanation, the editor states that much foreign literature has reached him quite recently.

There are four sections—soils; plant nutrition and manuring; animal nutrition and feeding stuffs; and agricultural chemical methods. Dr. O. Nolte is responsible for the first and last sections. Individual papers are for the most part dealt with very briefly, and the book is written somewhat after the manner of the annual reports to the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry. Full references are included. The authors show a patriotic bias in their selection of material for mention; but the decision as to what to include in a brief survey of this sort, dealing with a very large amount of literature, must in any case involve a strong personal factor and it is perhaps unreasonable to complain of omissions.

So far as the writer has tested them, the references are accurate and the discussions in the text adequate for the purpose. The book is a painstaking compilation which will prove useful to research workers and teachers of agricultural chemistry.

*Manual of Cultivated Plants: a Flora for the Identification of the most Common or Significant Species of Plants grown in the Continental United States and Canada for Food, Ornament, Utility, and General Interest, both in the Open and under Glass.* By L. H. Bailey. Pp. 851. (New York: The Macmillan Co.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 31s. 6d. net.

PROF. L. H. BAILEY has again placed horticulturists in his debt by the publication of his "Manual of Cultivated Plants," in which he has set down the plants commonly grown in N. America, both for use and for their horticultural interest. The book is furnished with keys by which the various species can readily be identified, which are of very great value. The descriptive portion is prefaced by a very useful general account of herbarium methods, terms and names used in botanical science, and a valuable list of the botanists who have given to the plants their specific names. This is followed by a key to the families of the plants referred to in the manual.

The various families are then treated in detail, and concise but adequate descriptions are given of the genera and species. The more important genera or families are illustrated with very useful text figures,

which are of considerable value to the plant lover who may not be a professional botanist.

Though the book is written for N. American and Canadian readers, it is not without value to students in Great Britain, where most of the plants recorded can be cultivated. It is a model of what such a book should be to enable plant lovers easily to determine the plants under cultivation in gardens or for economic purposes.

*Kant und Einstein: Untersuchungen über das Verhältnis der modernen Erkenntnistheorie zur Relativitätstheorie.* Von Dr. Alfred C. Elsbach. Pp. viii + 374. (Berlin und Leipzig: Walter de Gruyter und Co., 1924.) 8s.

THIS book is a study of the important problem of the relation between the space-time theory of Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason" and the relativist theory of Einstein. The author, who is of Dutch nationality, has already written essays on the subject in his native language. The present extensive study in German is based on the works of the late Hermann Cohen and Paul Natorp, and more especially on the recent work of Prof. Ernst Cassirer, to whom the book is dedicated. Cassirer's "Substance and Function" was reviewed in NATURE of August 9, p. 187. The transcendental æsthetic theory of Kant was founded on the classical mechanics of Newton, and intended to give the philosophical basis of Newton's concepts of absolute space, time, and velocity. There is no more important problem in contemporary philosophy than to determine whether and how far Kant's doctrine can be adapted to the new physics.

(1) *Immanuel Kant, 1724-1924: Gedächtnisrede zur Einweihung des Grabmals im Auftrag der Albertus-Universität und der Stadt Königsberg in Preussen am 21 April 1924 im Dom zu Königsberg gehalten.* Von Adolf von Harnack. Pp. 14. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1924.) 0.25 dollar.

(2) *Immanuel Kant und seine Bedeutung für die Naturforschung der Gegenwart.* Von Prof. Johannes von Kries. Pp. iv + 127. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1924.) 0.95 dollar.

THESE two works are issued in connexion with the bicentenary of Kant's birth, recently celebrated in his native city of Königsberg. They were both referred to in our note concerning that event (NATURE, May 17, p. 723). They are now issued separately and in convenient form.

*Descriptive Labels for Botanic Gardens.* By Humphrey Gilbert-Carter. Pp. 80. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1924.) 1s. 6d. net.

THE booklet of descriptive labels drawn up by the Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden is a very useful publication, and it is interesting to see that the practice started at Kew many years ago for trees has been extended by Mr. Carter to other plants of economic or botanical importance. It may be thought that the labels are rather on the "learned" side, but the inclusion of Arabic and Hindustani words will no doubt be appreciated at Cambridge. Mr. Carter gives some very useful suggestions as to methods of preparation of these labels in a cheap and lasting manner.