

*The Internal Secretions: for the use of Students and Physicians.* By Prof. Dr. Arthur Weil. Authorised translation of the third German edition by Dr. Jacob Gutman. Pp. xviii+287. (London: G. Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1924.) 18s. net.

THE author's method of presentation of his subject is one much to be recommended. Instead of dealing with each endocrine organ separately, he has chosen as subjects all the main physiological functions and describes the way in which each function is controlled by the endocrine glands operating either singly or in co-ordination.

Medical students and practitioners, for whom the book is intended, will certainly find in it much of interest and of value. Internal secretion is defined, the embryology and histology of the endocrine glands discussed, and there follow chapters on the physiology of the blood, circulation, respiration, metabolism, growth, reproduction, the sexual impulse, the mind, the chemistry of the endocrines; methods of testing for internal secretions; the inter-relationship of the endocrine glands; internal secretion and the nervous system. There is no bibliography, but the reader is referred to works of Biedl, Lipschütz, and others.

We agree with the translator that this book will be useful to students and general practitioners, and that medical specialists in other subjects will find in it sections dealing with the relation of endocrinology and their own special branches. This comprehensive elementary treatment is well suited to beginners, notwithstanding the fact that it contains within a small compass an immense amount of information. The book was not written for the endocrinologist, but by an endocrinologist for the German medical profession, and that which may be incomplete for the specialist may be more than enough for the general practitioner.

*An Introduction to the Study of Southwestern Archæology: with a Preliminary Account of the Excavations at Pecos.* By A. V. Kidder. (Published for the Department of Archæology, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.) Pp. vii+151+50 plates. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1924.) 20s. net.

FOR some years past American archæologists have devoted great attention to the south-western States, particularly New Mexico, and at the present moment excavations are being carried out on several sites. Of these Pecos in San Miguel County, New Mexico, is one of the most important, not only on account of its size, but also because of the length of time over which it was occupied by the Indian. There is a recorded occupation of practically three centuries, from 1540 until 1838, when it was abandoned, while the abundance of pottery of archaic type scattered among the mounds shows that it had been occupied for a long period before the coming of the Spaniards in the former year.

Although the account given in the second section of this volume is only a preliminary report dealing with the work in 1915 and 1916 and from 1920 onward, and it will be many years before the work is complete, it is already abundantly clear that the site is one of great importance and will without doubt throw much light upon the history and relative chronology of the development of culture in the south-western area. In

the remaining three sections of the book, Mr. Kidder deals respectively with the history of Pecos, the results obtained from excavation of the other sites of the south-west which have been explored, and in conclusion summarises these results in a general sketch of the rise and development of south-western culture. As a whole the book is a valuable contribution to the study of American archæology which will prove of great assistance to those who wish to understand the general trend of current research in this part of the States.

*Handbook to the Technical and Art Schools and Colleges of the United Kingdom.* Compiled from Official Information. With an Index to Courses of Instruction. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. iv+170. (London: Scott, Greenwood and Son, 1925.) 6s. net.

As a reference book to the technical schools and colleges of the British Isles, the volume before us will no doubt serve a useful purpose. It is divided into five sections, dealing respectively with London, England (provinces), Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, the last section being subdivided into two sections covering Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. In the London group the schools are arranged alphabetically, whereas in the remaining sections they are under towns, which again appear in alphabetical order. Under each entry is given essential information about the school, together with an indication of the courses of study, day and evening, which are available. There is a full index to the courses of instruction, so that it is possible to see quickly where any particular subject is studied.

*Stories of the Birds from Myth and Fable.* By M. C. Carey. Pp. 192+8 plates. (London, Calcutta and Sydney: G. G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 5s. net.

THE author of this book has culled from many standard works on the folklore of peoples such myths, legends and fairy tales as relate to birds, and has recast them in simple language suitable for children. The result is a series of quite charming tales, delightfully told, which, in the pleasant guise of fable, include a considerable measure of true and salient facts about the form, habits and natural history of birds. Primitive man was always a close observer of natural things, and the myths which centre round natural phenomena are merely his attempts to find reasons for things which he could not otherwise explain.

Children will be delighted with this book. Those who are students of birds will be no less interested in the ingenious and fanciful explanation of avian habits and structure put forward by early man.

*Skill in Work and Play.* By Prof. T. H. Pear. Pp. 107. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 4s. net.

THIS book is a study of the way in which muscular skill is acquired. It is eminently popular in exposition; but behind its somewhat racy style lies the weight of facts that have been investigated in carefully planned research. Prof. Pear applies the facts, originally brought to light in connexion with problems of industrial psychology, not only to the acquisition of dexterity in such operations as typewriting and metal polishing, but also to those of athletic skill as exemplified in cricket, skating, and similar games and sports.