Akkad. Col. Waddell regards the seals as confirming his theories; but it must be obvious that an interpretation which is entirely individual depends upon, rather than confirms, a theory which still lacks conclusive demonstration. For it must be stated that Col. Waddell's views, particularly in so far as his etymological arguments are involved, have not met with the acceptance of those most competent to judge. Until the author has brought forward more cogent arguments for the identification of the kings of the Indian lists with those of Mesopotamia—a subject with which it is understood he proposes to deal in a later work—the riddle of the seals remains unsolved.

*Aufgaben und Lehrsätze aus der Analysis.* Von Prof. G. Pólya und G. Szegö. (Die Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften in Einzeldarstellungen, Band 19 and 20.) Erster Band: Reihen, Integralrechnung, Funktionentheorie. Pp. xvi + 338. 15 gold marks. Zweiter Band: Funktionentheorie, Nullstellen, Polynome, Determinanten, Zahlentheorie. Pp. x + 407. 18 gold marks. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1925.)

MOST French and German mathematical text-books differ from the English books in one important particular: they contain no examples for solution. The working of problems and examples has long been one of the features of English mathematical teaching. All able mathematical students of a generation ago were expected to gain practice in manipulation by solving hard problems. Wolstenholme's problem book reflects the tendency of the period in which it was compiled, a large proportion of its examples being somewhat artificial in character despite the elegant solutions they admit. Now the tendency is to avoid problems involving hard manipulation, it being considered that familiarity with mathematical subjects can be gained by working easy examples constructed to test a student's knowledge of fundamental principles. The new Wolstenholme still remains to be written.

Meanwhile, Prof. Pólya and Herr Szegö, in the two volumes before us, have brought together some 1500 problems dealing with the subjects of analysis above noted. A large proportion of the questions can be solved at sight; others involve results taken from research papers in the journals, and few readers will see through these without referring to the solutions. The books will be of great value to honours students of pure mathematics in universities, and a lecturer will find innumerable suggestions for examples to set before his classes.                                        W. E. H. B.

*Air Ministry: Meteorological Office. British Meteorological and Magnetic Year Book, 1917.* Part 5: *Réseau Mondial, 1917.* Monthly and Annual Summaries of Pressure, Temperature, and Precipitation at Land Stations, generally Two for each Ten-degree Square of Latitude and Longitude (M.O., No. 229 g, Tables). Pp. xiv + 116. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1925.) 22s. 6d. net.

THIS publication deals with the weather results for the whole globe, and similar results are now available for the eight years 1910–1917. The means are compared with normals and the differences are given for each element for each station. The statistics for each additional year add much of real scientific value in the

direction of preparing for long-period forecasts. It is now possible to see how excess or defect from the normal in one part of the world influences weather experienced in another part. It is a fairly simple study to ascertain whether the pressure of the air at the earth's surface is practically uniform at different times over the whole globe. All the information refers to land stations, no data over the sea being as yet obtainable. The number of stations utilised is 458, which is an increase of 18 since the previous issue for the year 1916.

The highest mean shade temperature for the year 1917 was 87° F. at Sokoto and 86° F. at Berbera, Somaliland; the lowest mean 6° F. at Verkhoïansk. The absolutely highest shade temperature recorded is 123° F. at Baghdad on July 21 and at Jacobabad on June 11; the absolute lowest temperature was –81° F. at Verkhoïansk on January 19. The heaviest total rainfall for 1917 was 9850 mm. (388 in.) at Cherrapunji; the least 1 mm. at Iquique.

*Schlich's Manual of Forestry.* By Sir William Schlich. Vol. 3: *Forest Management, including Mensuration and Valuation.* Fifth edition, revised, and the greater part rewritten. Pp. viii + 383. (London: Bradbury, Agnew and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 20s. net.

IN this fifth edition of vol. 3 of Schlich's " Manual " the number of pages is slightly less than in its predecessor. Room has been found, however, for a considerable mass of new material, and for several new figures, by judicious compression and elimination, so that the work is brought up-to-date with the examination of new ideas and practice in forestry. Those who peruse the several publications devoted to the science of forestry in England and in India are aware that the author has kept in touch with the latest developments, and here he brings to bear his keen faculty for criticism and for the correct appreciation of modern tendencies.

All the features and main divisions of the previous edition are retained and improved. Among the added subjects the British Forestry Commissioner's method of determining the volume of whole woods is described and criticised. Sir William's own graph for indicating the mean forest per cent., first published by him in his pamphlet " Forestry in the United Kingdom " in 1904, is now included, as well as a reference to Mr. W. S. Hiley's indicator graph, and among the modifications of the compartment system, Dr. Eberhard's ingenious system of wedge fellings is discussed. The controversy on the question of the rate and kind of interest to to be adopted in forestry has led to the inclusion of a paragraph explaining why the application of compound interest in forest finance is insisted upon.

The volume is produced in the now familiar, neat, and handy form of the former editions, and should find place on the reference shelves of every scientific forester.                                            C. E. C. F.

*A Survey of Physics: a Collection of Lectures and Essays.* By Max Planck. Translated by R. Jones and D. H. Williams. Pp. vii + 184. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 6s. net.

MESSRS. Methuen are doing a real service to science by their publication of translations of foreign scientific works, but they are not always fortunate in their choice of books for translation. It might have been thought