

perfect blending of the theoretical and practical considerations. How complex and intriguing are the numerous factors to be considered in the formation of the trioxide and its absorption may be gauged from the chapters on the properties of sulphur trioxide and oleum, gas equilibrium and velocity of reaction, catalysis and contact mass, gas purification and absorption of the trioxide. All these phases are dealt with in a lucid and authoritative manner, interposed with valuable suggestions for future research and development. The last three chapters in the volume describe Grillo-Schröder plants and the Tentelew and Mannheim processes, and contain important information of practical significance. Replete with excellent illustrations and nomographic charts, this volume is in every respect a noteworthy production, fully maintaining the great traditions which will always be associated with Dr. Lunge's treatises. W. W.

### British Scientific and Technical Books.

*A Catalogue of British Scientific and Technical Books: Covering every Branch of Science and Technology, carefully Classified and Indexed.* New edition, entirely revised and enlarged. Pp. xxii + 489. (London: British Science Guild; A. and F. Denny, Ltd., 1925.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE British Science Guild performed in 1921 an extremely useful public service in issuing a catalogue of British scientific and technical books. By donations from interested bodies and a number of publishers, and with the aid of what must have been a considerable amount of voluntary labour, the Guild has found it possible to issue a new edition without undue drain upon its own slender resources, and the result is eminently one upon which it may be congratulated.

In this edition the terms "scientific" and "technical" and the term "book" have been broadly interpreted, with the result that it contains more than 9500 titles, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. on the first edition. The entries are grouped into classes corresponding with the main and recognised divisions of scientific work, each division being arranged in sections on a subject basis, the entries in each section being in alphabetical order of authors. It is easier to criticise such a classification than to suggest an improvement, and it is hoped that the newly formed Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be able to render assistance in such matters as this. Undue dependence on the main classification is avoided by excellent author and subject indexes, but an illustration of the classification difficulty is provided, for example, by Prof. Burstall's "Energy Diagram for Gas," which is readily traceable through the author

index, but is not referred to in the subject index except under "Thermodynamics." In the body of the book the entry is made in the section on General Physics, Section ii.d, Gases, whereas its place is preferably under Mechanical Engineering, Section xviii., Internal Combustion Engines. It is also surprising to find Dr. Aston's "Isotopes" grouped in Chemistry, Section v.b, Physical Chemistry, and not referred to at all in the section on physics. It is placed consistently with the scheme of classification, but this tends to be a Procrustean bed to which the books have to be fitted. The grouping of the metallurgical section illustrates the main difficulty of making mutually exclusive sections when one section relates to materials (iron and steel, non-ferrous metals), while other sections relate to processes and methods (heat treatment, foundry practice, etc.). Close inspection of several of the main sections shows that nothing has been omitted.

It is, of course, impossible for the inexpert student to dispense with the advice of a specialist in utilising an uncritical or unannotated collection, but this volume illustrates in an admirable way what British material is available, and it will be found constantly useful in both general libraries and the ever-increasing number of specialised technical libraries all over the country. In view also of the high reputation of British books abroad, it may well act as very valuable propaganda on behalf of British scientific literature.

### Palæolithic Art.

*Les Combarelles aux Eyzies (Dordogne).* Par Dr. L. Capitan, l'Abbé H. Breuil, et D. Peyrony. (Institut de Paléontologie humaine: Peintures et gravures murales des cavernes paléolithiques.) Pp. iv + 192 + 58 planches. (Paris: Masson et Cie, 1924.) 200 francs.

THIS superbly illustrated volume, recording the palæolithic art of the cave of Combarelles, is the latest of the well-known series of works which started under the auspices of the late Prince of Monaco with "Altamira" in 1906 and continued with "Font de Gaume," "Les Cavernes de la région Cantabrique," and so on. These monographs have finally and for all time presented the palæolithic art of France and Spain to the student of prehistory, enabling him to do his work without having always to be visiting out-of-the-way localities and difficult caves.

More even than this has been accomplished, however, for in the texts will be found careful accounts of the systematic work done in the caves themselves, where the significance of every superposition of drawings was noted; also comparisons with outside matter are included. For example, in the volume under review, the chapters on the types of horse figured at Com-