

of one of England's most famous poets, owes its efficacy to the presence in it of sodium hypochlorite. It is common knowledge that chemists can no more answer the question: What is a chemical? than the related one: What is a chemist? Nevertheless, we believe that most of them would be surprised to find in a dictionary of chemical synonyms such names as briquettes, hop-flour, molasses, gin, and Apollinaris!

*Contributions to the Ethnology of the Kwakiutl.* By Franz Boas. (Columbia University Contributions to Anthropology, Vol. 3.) Pp. vi+357. (New York: Columbia University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1925.) 21s. net.

THIS volume consists of Kwakiutl texts with translations for which the material was obtained from a half-blood Indian of Fort Rupert, British Columbia, who speaks Kwakiutl as his native language and has been trained in phonetic writing by Prof. Boas himself. It is a continuation of Vol. 35 of the annual report of the American Bureau of Ethnology. The greater part of the texts deal with the social organisation of the people, and they have this advantage for the student, that they deal with concrete examples, described in minute detail, of such social elements as inheritance and succession, naming, marriage, and the like.

The section which is particularly welcome, however, is the transcript of sixty-five dreams. These are of interest from the point of view of both the psychologist and the student of religion. A number of the dreams are of an ordinary type merely reproducing everyday activities. Of the others, some describe relations with the dead. In one a son was told by his father of his discomforts in the spirit world, and on waking he burned two pairs of blankets and food for the soul of his father. Two dreams deal with the Shaman's crystal: in one the dreamer finds a crystal in the stomach of a seal; in the second a crystal is forced into the dreamer's body by a gull which had spat it out. A man well known as a 'true' dreamer anticipated the news of the death in England of a former missionary. It is stated that this dream was told to the writer the morning after its occurrence, and the letter containing the news of the death not received until some time after. The familiar nightmare of falling from a height is recorded. A number of the dreams are interpreted as foretelling epidemics and death.

*The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Girton College, Cambridge: a Report based on the MS. Notes of the Excavations made by the late F. J. H. Jenkinson, M.A.* By E. J. Hollingworth and M. M. O'Reilly. Pp. vii+38+12 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1925.) 4s. net.

THE Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Girton College, which lies a few yards north of the Roman road from Cambridge to Godmanchester, was discovered in 1881 in the course of building operations. About 150 cremation interments and 75 to 80 skeletons were then brought to light. Further discoveries were made in 1886; but while the authors of the book have been able to avail themselves of the careful notes of the late Mr. Jenkinson from the earlier excavations, the conditions under which the later examination was made precluded anything like a detailed record. The authors have performed a pious duty to their College and a real service to archæology

in working up the material provided by these notes and by the actual objects, some on loan from Girton College, which are now in the University Museum of Archæology and Ethnology at Cambridge. The cemetery was evidently of considerable size, and presents several points of considerable interest. Cremation and inhumation were practised contemporaneously throughout the whole period of pagan Saxon occupation. A fragment of pottery suggests that the site may have been occupied so early as the Middle Bronze age, and two Roman cremated burials were also found.

*Die Schalltechnik.* Von Dr. Richard Berger. (Sammlung Vieweg, Heft 83.) Pp. iv+115. (Braunschweig: Friedr. Vieweg und Sohn A.-G., 1926.) 8 gold marks.

IT is strange that in text-books dealing with the practical applications of our knowledge of sound, each author considers it necessary to employ a special vocabulary to describe sound phenomena, and each author employs a different one. This monograph provides an illustration, for the first part of it is devoted to well-known theories of the propagation and production of the various types of waves, which are described in a new nomenclature. Theory is then somewhat abruptly set aside and a description of practical technique is commenced. This part of the book is much more helpful, for it describes work carried out in Germany which had for its object the prevention of noise with moving machinery, and the insulation of other portions of a building from such noise. The work of Sabine and Watson on the acoustics of buildings is touched upon, but the list of absorption coefficients given is not up-to-date. Sound-signalling, including the effect of wind, sound-ranging and direction finding are also described, the work of the Danish and German artillery sections providing most of the material. The final section deals with the work of Miller in the United States on the analysis of sounds produced by musical instruments and by the human voice.

*Volumetric Analysis: with a Chapter on Simple Gravimetric Determinations.* By A. J. Berry. (Cambridge Physical Series.) Third edition. Pp. vii+151. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1925.) 9s. net.

THIS work was first published in 1915, and the fact that it has reached a third edition, in spite of the appearance of a large number of books covering the same ground, is good testimony to its popularity and value. The treatment is clear and scientific, an excellent feature being the judicious interweaving of explanatory theoretical matter with the practical instructions. In the recent edition is included a new chapter on simple gravimetric determinations which contains much useful advice to the young student concerning general principles. The author is under no illusion that analytical chemistry can be taught exclusively from books: it is a craft as much as a science, and in the learning of it, practice in doing must take precedence over theoretical explanations, important as these are at the proper stage. It is a pleasure to note the author's strong recommendation of Masson's method for standardising hydrochloric acid with Iceland spar, which is not only very simple but also, as he states, yields results of extreme accuracy.