of radioactivity as a source of internal energy. Only nine lines are devoted to the continental drift hypothesis, and vulcanicity in all its forms is still regarded as "merely a secondary effect of the greater class of phenomena dependent on the cooling and contraction of the globe as a whole."

At present there is generally a marked difference between geological text-books and courses of lectures, and the above comments are offered in the hope that in future editions of this and other books of similar scope (*e.g.* American) some serious attempt will be made to make the gap less obvious. Meanwhile our "Lake and Rastall" remains by far the most generally useful text which is at present available for elementary students. We welcome its improvements and hope for more when the present edition is exhausted.

La construction collective de la maison en Kabylie: étude sur la coopération économique chez les Berbères du Djurjura. Par Prof. René Maunier. (Université de Paris: Travaux et Mémoires de l'Institut d'Ethnologie, Tome 3.) Pp. iii + 81 + 3 planches. (Paris: Institut d'Ethnologie, 1927.) 45 francs.

IN this study of the erection of a Kabyle house the author is primarily concerned with the sociological aspect, and the technological and religious aspects —for certain stages of erection involve a religious ritual with sacrifice—are dealt with only summarily and incidentally in so far as some account of them is necessary to comprehension of its building as a social activity. The character of the Kabyle house is determined to a large extent by the environment and by the economic activities of the people. The intensive character of the occupations of the people, as is usual in the circumstances, tends to the concentration of a completely self-supporting unit under each roof. Each house is inhabited by a single family. It is, however, essentially the place of women's occupations; the men use it only for eating and sleeping, while unmarried sons of adult age sleep in a kind of club-house. But as a small group of this kind is not adequate to the labour of erecting a new house, the help of relatives and then of the whole community is called in. New houses are usually erected on the marriage of a son, and there is a tendency for each new house to be grouped around that of the parents, thus creating a community within a larger unit. M. Maunier's book is a valuable piece of work which well illustrates the function of and method of working of a communal activity.

The Story of Myths: for the Use of Students in Training Colleges, and Others. By E. E. Kellett. Pp. v + 275. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

IN the course of the lectures, or rather informal talks to training college students, which furnished the material from which this book has been made, the author disclaims any attempt at exhaustive treatment of the various classes of myth. He has, however, covered a sufficiently wide field, and within the limits he has imposed upon himself, his treatment of the subject is scholarly and shows wide reading. The chapters on psychological elements in the growth of myth and on existing relics of old custom and myth will be found especially valuable in giving the student the point of view of the student of folklore in approaching his material, and the conditions, both psychological and cultural, of the myth-making stage in the development of the human mind. The principal classes of myth which the author analyses are those relating to the heavenly bodies, sky and sea, creation, great catastrophes such as the flood, birth and death, and twins. The chapter on the history of folklore might have been a little more systematic. Some notable names are not mentioned, for example, Sir Laurence Gomme and Sir John Rhys. A select bibliography would have been an advantage, and have added materially to the value of what is, within its limits, an excellent book. The index is particularly good and useful.

Applied X-rays. By Prof. George L. Clark. Pp. xiii + 255. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1927.) 20*s.* net.

IN this admirable volume, Prof. Clark gives what is probably the first extensive and scientific account of the progress made in the application of X-rays to the solution of the special problems of industry. Even to readers more or less in touch with X-ray work in general, the extent and variety of the subjects dealt with in the book will come as a surprise. The application of X-rays to the solution of problems connected with the behaviour of metals and alloys under strains, with the composition of chemical compounds, with catalysts, colloids, textile fibres, varnishes, dyes, soaps, dielectrics, adhesives, abrasives, cements, coal, and gems, are some of the many subjects with which the author deals. It is not surprising that he foresees a great future for this new and rapidly growing branch of applied science.

Prof. Clark writes not only with enthusiasm but also with knowledge and judgment, and has succeeded in condensing into small compass a considerable amount of information, much of which is drawn from sources not too easily available in Great Britain. The book is excellently written, well illustrated, and charmingly produced. We congratulate the author on having so admirably filled a real gap in our current scientific literature.

The Theory of Strong Electrolytes: a General Discussion held by the Faraday Society, April 1927. Pp. iii + 329-544. (London: The Faraday Society, 1927.) 15*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE Faraday Society's general discussion on "The Theory of Strong Electrolytes," held at Oxford on April 22 and 23, 1927, was noted somewhat fully in these columns (May 7, p. 676). A full report, containing the original papers and the discussion upon them, has now appeared, and will be welcomed as a work of first-class importance on one of the most controversial aspects of physical chemistry.