

use, from the simple crank and connecting rod to the gear box and Ackerman steering of a motor-car.

On the whole, the ground is well covered, but it is suggested that future editions might contain paragraphs on the reactions exerted by oscillating bodies at their supports; on the properties of the centre of percussion and on the theory of the hammer and pile driver. The theories of toothed gearing and of machine balancing are adequately treated, and the chapter on friction and lubrication, including a discussion of the Michell and ball bearings, is up-to-date.

The book is illustrated with a large number of clear diagrams, while each chapter concludes with a good selection of examples from examination papers and other sources. An appendix on units and dimensions is seriously marred by the astonishing definition of the engineers' unit of mass as the ratio of the weight in pounds of a body to its acceleration in feet per second per second when falling freely; which ratio is stated to be constant.

A. L. RAWLINGS.

*Medical Views on Birth Control.* By Dr. H. Crichton-Miller, Prof. Leonard Hill, Dame Mary Scharlieb, Dr. Arthur E. Giles, Dr. R. C. Buist, Dr. Lottia B. Fairfield, Sir Arthur Newsholme, Sir John Robertson. With an Introduction by Sir Thomas Horder. Edited by Sir James Marchant. Pp. xx + 175. (London: Martin Hopkinson and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 6s. net.

THIS book consists of a number of essays by prominent members of the medical profession, with an introduction by Sir Thomas Horder. The latter rightly warns his readers against expecting to find a complete solution to all the problems that have to be considered in association with contraception. The spirit of scientific inquiry has guided the authors, and when personal views are indicated it is quite evident that there is by no means unanimity of opinion. In general, it is recognised that contraception is justified in some circumstances, though one contributor is uncompromisingly antagonistic. To those who seek medical advice on the subject, the question will be a personal one; the general practitioner will therefore find of most interest the chapters on the medical and psychological aspects. The physician has to remember that if he is ever to advise limitation of the family, he must also be prepared to advise a method. Abstinence cannot honestly be recommended, except under conditions which are prohibitive for the average married man and woman. The practitioner will find guidance in the comments and criticisms of other methods given by various contributors.

*Standard Methods of the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health.* By Dr. Augustus B. Wadsworth. Pp. xxviii + 12 plates. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1927.) 34s. net.

THIS book is devoted to a detailed account of the methods used by the division of Laboratories and Research at the Department of Health for the State of New York, situated at Albany, with a branch in New York City and numerous associated

laboratories throughout the State. General bacteriological technique, preparation of media and glassware, and diagnosis, for the greater part bacteriological, are fully described, and a large section (326 pp.) is given up to the preparation of vaccines and sera. A chapter deals with sanitary chemistry, and at the close of the book a brief account is given of the general organisation of the institute.

It is, altogether, a very interesting book and should prove a useful reference to those engaged in public health laboratory work and the manufacture of biological products. One is left with an impression that the institution concerned has developed a high degree of efficiency in routine work, a fact which tends toward making the presentation of the work outlined a little stereotyped.

*The Prospective Development of Peru as a Sheep-breeding and Wool-growing Country.* By Prof. Alfred F. Barker. Pp. xii + 174 + 8 plates. (Leeds: The University, 1927.) n.p.

PROF. BARKER, at the request of the Peruvian Government, went to Peru in 1926 to study the development of Peruvian flocks and of Peru as a wool-growing country. The present illustrated volume is the report of that visit, with a number of valuable appendices on different aspects of wool. The wool production of the Peruvian tablelands in the high Andes is steadily growing and the number of sheep has doubled in five years. Peruvian wool has many good qualities, and it loses little in scouring because of the cleanliness of the pastures, but the fleece is very light compared with Chilean, Argentine, and Australian fleeces. Prof. Barker discusses the cross-breeding and selection necessary for increase in the weight of the fleeces, and incidentally he points out that the problems involved in these researches make them a valuable field of study in genetics that should appeal to every university. The report is beautifully illustrated, with some of the plates in colour.

*The Psychology of Childhood: Normal and Abnormal.* By Dame Mary Scharlieb. Pp. xi + 194. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 6s. net.

THIS little book is by an authority competent to instruct as well as to advise respecting the practical and non-theoretical relationships which should exist between parent and child. Dame Mary Scharlieb with correct intuition speaks of the great burden, yet great honour, of bringing up children, and the necessity of guidance. Parents of all classes will find her conclusions of real help in child-management. Happily, the outlook is not that which prevailed during the War. Those qualified to judge found that the young suffered much from their mothers' privations and anxieties. Children knew neither legend nor fairy-tale. There is a prefatory note by Mr. R. F. Graham-Campbell, a London magistrate, who sees much to commend in a chapter which deals with the action of conscience, the influence of suggestion, and of equable discipline upon juvenile delinquents.