

these have often been made in the long-cultivated tongues of Greece or Rome, the Principal of the University of Glasgow has chosen a less known medium, that strange Indian dialect which was brought to British shores some five or six centuries ago by wandering Gypsy tribes.

These versions are ingenious; often, so far as the non-Gypsy can judge, they attain beauty; certainly they testify to their author's knowledge of Romani. The poems are aptly chosen: "The Raggle-Taggle Gypsies," "The Princess and the Gypsies," "The Gypsy King," Scott's "The Lochmaben Harper," Kipling's "A Smuggler's Song," are suitable in their substance and spirit, and do not strain too much the limited, but genuine, Gypsy vocabulary. It is perhaps different with the polished artifice of 22 quatrains from FitzGerald's Omar, to which are added 22 translated with equal skill by Dr. J. Sampson.

Translation is not so difficult, perhaps, as it might at first sight seem. For while Romani has preserved something of the vocabulary and grammatical forms of its Indian original, its syntax is largely modelled on the language of its hosts. Also, as Dr. Sampson remarks in his introduction, even the real Gypsy songs collected in Greece by Paspatis are imitations, both in metre and material, of popular Greek poetry.

Beyond the page or two of this introduction, the collection cannot, of course, claim to be of any scientific interest to the linguist or the student of folk-lore. But that was not the author's purpose. He made these versions to amuse himself; and without doubt they will bring as much pleasure and amusement to that band of Romani Rais whose delight in all things Gypsy is perhaps as intelligible as it is real.

"All I ask, the heaven above  
And the road below me."

"Mangi muk o tem oprál  
Ta o drom te java."

R. L. T.

*Organic Chemistry for Advanced Students.* By Prof. Julius B. Cohen. Fifth edition. Part 1: *Reactions*. Pp. vii + 427. Part 2: *Structure*. Pp. vii + 487. Part 3: *Synthesis*. Pp. vii + 440. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1928.) 18s. net each vol.

THE fifth edition of this familiar work contains a good deal of new matter, but as the result of a judicious condensation of some of the less important sections, the complete work contains only 58 pages more than the fourth edition, which was published in 1923. No alterations have been made in the titles of the chapters. In Part 1, a revision of Chapters ii. and iii., on the nature of organic reactions and their dynamics, has afforded an opportunity of dealing with recent studies based on the electronic theory of chemical combination. In Part 2, a brief reference to the parachor theory has been incorporated in Chapter i., while Chapter v. has been amplified by the insertion of a short account of recent work on optically active derivatives of sulphur, boron, beryllium, zinc, and copper,

and on the stereochemistry of metalamines. In Part 3, the account of the carbohydrates has been remodelled in accordance with new experimental data; we are glad to note, in passing, that the author has abandoned the term "monosaccharose" in favour of "monosaccharide." Part 3 includes, in addition, short accounts of recent advances in the chemistry of anthocyanins, terpenes, and sesquiterpenes; syntheses of glutathione, spermine, and thyroxine are other new features of this volume.

Altogether, the value of Prof. Cohen's book has been appreciably enhanced by the revision. It is well printed, the new sections having been reset in a particularly clear type. We suggest that the spacing of the formulæ in the synthesis of thyroxine (p. 178), and the unprefaced representation of glutathione at the stage of hydrogen acceptor (pp. 160 and 170), may prove somewhat confusing to the student at the first reading.

*The Date of Easter and other Christian Festivals.*

By the Rev. David Ross Fotheringham. Pp. xv + 56. (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; New York and Toronto: The Macmillan Co., 1928.) Cloth, 2s. 6d. net; paper, 1s. 6d. net.

THIS book is largely taken up with a study of the evidence for the dates of the Nativity and Crucifixion. Much of this evidence is familiar to all, but some new points are introduced, including recent work on the moon's motion and the ancient calendar by the author's brother, Dr. J. K. Fotheringham, and by Mr. C. Schoch. The suggestion is made that the star of Bethlehem may be the planet Mars, rising heliacally. The author decides on December, 4 B.C. for the Nativity, and April 7, A.D. 30, for the Crucifixion. He then goes on to recommend the rule for determining Easter, that it should be April 9 if Sunday, or the first Sunday after this. This suggested rule is supported in the preface, which is written by Lord Desborough.

A. C. D. C.

*The Annual Register: a Review of Public Events at Home and Abroad for the Year 1927.* Edited by Dr. M. Epstein. Pp. xiv + 318 + 168. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 30s. net.

THIS valuable record of the year, with its impartial survey of the world's history, is again planned on the lines which have long been familiar. Half of Part I., which is a narrative under the headings of various States, is devoted to the history of Great Britain and half to other countries, including all in which events of importance occurred. Part II., in addition to a chronological list of events and an obituary with short biographies, has the usual survey of literature, science, art, finance, and law. Science receives fourteen pages, of which more than half is devoted to biology in its various aspects, and the remainder to the physical sciences. The public documents printed in full are the treaties with Iraq and the Hejaz, and the Italian Labour Charter.