

that even the average student should be able to follow it with ease. The subject matter forms a useful exposition of the way in which physico-chemical theory can be applied to the prediction of biological phenomena, as well as the necessity, in considering such phenomena, of using the methods of synthesis in addition to those of analysis, if a true idea of their influence upon each other in the living intact organism is to be attained. Among the subjects dealt with are the functions of hæmoglobin and the mechanisms of the production of œdema. A selected bibliography is appended. For its size, the price seems somewhat high; but the monograph is well worth reading by all interested in this subject.

*Aspects actuels de la physiologie du Myocarde.* (Première série.) *L'onde d'excitation motrice, son origine, sa propagation, ses manifestations électriques.* Par Prof. Henri Frédéricq. (Les problèmes biologiques, Tome 7.) Pp. viii + 300. (Paris: Les Presses universitaires de France, 1927.) n.p.

THIS is the seventh volume to appear in the collection of monographs on biological problems issued under the guidance of a technical committee comprising some of the best-known names in French biological science. The preceding volumes have, in the main, dealt with physico-chemical and embryological subjects, with the exception of Lapique's important monograph on a subject which, like the volume under review, is more directly physiological. The author has collected together a considerable amount of data of a representative character and he has moulded it into an orderly review of the present state of knowledge with regard to these properties of the myocardium, while each chapter is rounded off with a useful summary. The book should make an appeal to students of physiology and also to medical practitioners, since the subject matter is concerned chiefly with the mammalian heart.

*Macedonian Imperialism and the Hellenization of the East.* By Prof. Pierre Jouguet. Translated by M. R. Dobie. (The History of Civilization Series.) Pp. xx + 440 + 7 plates + 4 maps. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co., Ltd.; New York: Alfred Knopf, 1928.) 21s. net.

THE keynote of this volume is the imposition of political unity on the "small collective individualities" of which the rise has been described in the earlier volumes of the Greek series, and the demonstration of how the common civilisation, which had hitherto been their bond, was affected by an external force which in its origin at least was alien to Hellenism. The hero of the epic, for it is nothing less, is necessarily Alexander, and of him Prof. Jouguet has made a truly epic figure. He sees in him intensity of character, power of imagination and thought, fortified by literature and philosophy. His qualities were accompanied by an extraordinary clearness of mind in carrying out his projects. The weaknesses of Alexander may lead one to question the true character of his idealism, but of his

genius there can be no doubt. To this Prof. Jouguet does full justice, without attempting to disguise the flaws in his organisation, which led to the break-up of the Empire. In dealing with the later period, the author's very careful study of Egyptian conditions especially calls for commendation.

*Raw Materials of Commerce.* By J. Henry Vanstone, assisted by Specialist Contributors. Complete in about 24 Fortnightly Parts. Part 1. Pp. ii + 32. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1929.) 1s. 3d. net each part.

THIS work is planned to give accurate and modern information about the raw materials of industry. It is to be divided into four sections, covering vegetable, animal, mineral, and synthetic products respectively. The contents gives the impression of a comprehensive work which should be of considerable value to students of geography, economics, and commerce, as well as to persons actually engaged in manufactures. The first part, in addition to the introduction, has articles on fibres generally, cotton, flax, and jute. Each article describes the plant concerned, conditions of cultivation, harvesting, and the preparation and marketing of the fibre. The author has succeeded in combining accuracy with the avoidance of unduly technical language. Much of the matter is not otherwise readily accessible except in expensive works dealing with one or other industry, or is scattered in technical journals. The work is well illustrated by photographs, maps, and coloured plates.

*Principles and Applications of Electro-Chemistry.* By Prof. H. Jermain Creighton. Second edition, revised and enlarged. In 2 volumes. Vol. 1: *Principles.* Pp. xvi + 488. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1928.) 20s. net.

THE first volume of Creighton and Fink's book on "The Principles and Applications of Electro-chemistry," dealing with principles, has reached a second edition before the second volume, dealing with applications, has appeared. The second edition includes new chapters on "The Activity of Strong Electrolytes" and on "Theories of Strong Electrolytes," but the author has postponed the drastic operation of making the rest of the volume conform to the theory of complete ionisation.

*Lehrbuch der physikalischen Chemie.* Von Prof. Dr. Karl Jellinek. Fünf Bände. Zweite, vollständig umgearbeitete Auflage. Band 2: *Die Lehre vom festen Aggregatzustand reiner Stoffe; Die Lehre von den verdünnten Lösungen.* Lieferung 5. Pp. 273-560. 24 gold marks. Lieferung 6. Pp. xiv + 559-924. 32 gold marks. Band 2 vollständig. 88 gold marks. (Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke, 1928.)

THE two sections now received complete the second volume of Prof. Jellinek's text-book, of which the first volume and the initial section of the second volume were recently noticed in these columns (Oct. 6, 1928, p. 523).