

scientifically organised society that they must maintain their position *vis-à-vis* of the East and the less developed peoples of the globe.

It is almost unnecessary to add that these last ten years have also witnessed the most amazing extensions of the scientific spirit, above all in astronomy and physics, that humanity has ever gained. These belong to all mankind, they afford the easiest means of binding the nations together, and they lift the mind above the atmosphere of jealousy and discord which are so painfully apparent even in a generally hopeful book such as Mr. Delisle Burns has given us.

F. S. M.

### Our Bookshelf.

*Voyages of Exploration to Judge of the Bearing of Hybridisation upon Evolution.* By J. P. Lotsy and W. A. Goodijn. 1: *South Africa.* (*Genetica: Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Erfelijkheids- en Afstammingsleer*, onder redactie von Dr. J. P. Lotsy en Dr. H. N. Kooiman, vol. 10.) Pp. viii + 315 + 11 plates. ('s-Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff, 1928.) 35 guilders.

DR. LOTSY has undertaken during recent years many voyages of exploration seeking evidence of the frequency of hybridisation in Nature in order to assess its rôle in the creation and perpetuation of the diversity in characterisation so abundantly observable. Recently, with his colleague, Dr. Goodijn, he visited South Africa, and in the volume under notice gives an account of the many things they saw. The first part of the story concerns itself with forty-three plant hybrids distributed over thirteen families.

Thereafter the authors turn to a much more interesting topic, that of hybrids between different human races, so very common in South Africa, and yet, save for the classical work on the Rehobosh, hybrids so far unrecorded. The investigation was performed somewhat hurried, and much of that which is written is copied directly from other books which would seem to be mainly impressionistic and uncritical. However, the chief native races are divided for purposes of discussion into Bantu, Bushman, and Hottentot lineages, and it is suggested that there exist some eight tribes which have had their origin in the crossing of these. Quite interesting, but definitely anecdotal accounts are given of certain white × black crosses. The origin of the de Buys people, the Bastards and Griquas, and the Cape coloured is discussed, but no really satisfactory conclusion is reached.

Finally, a number of family histories, illustrated with useful photographs, is given, and these may permit the enthusiast and the expert to identify the ancestry by recognising segregation among the progeny. This is always a simple matter in the absence of any standard type. Similarly, the coloured plates (in a separate folder) illustrating the plant and human crosses, are of more artistic than scientific value.

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*Science and Personality.* (The Terry Lectures.) By Dr. William Brown. Pp. ix + 258. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS volume contains the substance of three lectures which were given by Dr. Brown in the United States in 1928 and were delivered in connexion with the Dwight H. Terry Foundation. The material there presented has been amplified by the inclusion of a selection of other papers relevant to the general theme, which is broadly a consideration of religion in the light of science and philosophy.

Dr. Brown commences by a brief survey of the present state of the physical sciences, and he then proceeds to examine the condition of the biological and psychological sciences. Continuing, he deals shortly with the problems of mental unity as contrasted with mental dissociation, insisting that here is to be discerned a direct relation to the problems of unity and dissociation in the physical and physiological spheres. He then proceeds to consider the various theories which have been advanced to explain the phenomena of suggestion, passing on to an examination of the claims of psycho-analysis and other forms of psycho-therapy. The book ends with a discussion of personality in relation to the alleged supernormal phenomena which form the subject matter of psychical research, and in this section a full report of a sitting with the medium Mrs. Osborne Leonard is printed in order to illustrate the bearing of the trance utterances upon the general question.

Although it is obvious that Dr. Brown is in favour of trying to reconcile the claims of science with those of religion, it is not quite clear in what sense he uses the latter term. Again, the relation of religion to what he calls the 'universe', and the concept of value which he considers an integral part of his argument, are not sufficiently worked out to illustrate the problem of personality, and the inclusion of some very dubious examples of 'clairvoyance' towards the close of the volume tends rather to obscure than to clarify the fundamental issues.

It is to be hoped that Dr. Brown will return to the same theme in another place and develop individual points in his theory more fully than he has found possible in the present volume.

*Vorlesungen über theoretische Physik an der Universität Leiden.* Von Prof. Dr. H. A. Lorentz. Band 4: *Die Relativitätstheorie für gleichförmige Translationen (1910-1912).* Bearbeitet von Dr. A. D. Fokker. Übersetzt von Dr. H. Stücklen. Pp. ix + 180. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1929.) 13.80 gold marks.

THIS volume is substantially a translation of the lectures delivered by Prof. Lorentz in 1910-12 on what is now called the special theory of relativity, with one omission and a few additions. The part omitted dealt with gravitation, and has been withdrawn as being superseded by Einstein's general theory. One addition is an account of later experimental work on the mass of a moving electron. The results of Guye and Lavanchy (1916) on