of ships several days beforehand, will be claimed by some ethnologists to have his prototypes in many a savage isle of the Pacific. The search for the Auroras and other lost islands still goes on, and this story of several southern isles is from an expert. All Britain was excited over the fate of Franklin in 1845–46, and were "The ships seen on the Ice" of a great berg near Newfoundland in 1851 the *Erebus* and *Terror* with which they so clearly corresponded? We suppose the astronomers will not allow us the planet Vulcan, but popular writers still regard it as a subject for speculation. Our editor and the president of the Royal Society are the two targets for the fiends of 'perpetual motion', but really it is rather difficult for the layman to understand that the hypothesis of the conservation of energy holds for space as we know it. Orffyreus was mad perchance, but we, like our author, would not accuse him of being a knave. Astrology in the person of Nostradamus comes in too—and we may refer our readers to the professor of this 'science' in Oxford, our sole specialist in this modern age. Buy and read this book; every page interests, and no page bores. J. S. G.

Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Photography, London, July 9–14, 1928. Editors: W. Clark, T. Slater Price, and B. V. Storr. Pp. xiii + 571 + 29 plates. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 1929.) 25*s.* net.

THE report of the proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Photography, which was held last year, is now ready. It is noteworthy that the whole is in English, although some of the papers and speeches were originally in other languages. It contains an account of the opening and closing meetings, resolutions and recommendations, the introductory lecture by Mr. F. C. Tilney, "On the Relation of Technical Advance to further Artistic Achievement", the papers read at the various sections and the discussions on them, and as appendices, various lists of members, officers, and committees. The sections comprise the theory, practice, and scientific applications of photography, photo-engraving, colour photography, kinematography, bibliography, record photography, etc. It was unanimously agreed that the next Congress shall be held in 1931 in Dresden, an interval of three years instead of seven, which, however, is fully justified by the large number of chemists and physicists who are now at work on the subject. The volume is a very valuable addition to the literature of photography.

Institut International de Physique Solvay. *Électrons et photons: rapports et discussions du cinquième Conseil de Physique tenu à Bruxelles du 24 au 29 octobre 1927 sous les auspices de l'Institut International de Physique Solvay.* Pp. viii + 290. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie, 1928.) 60 francs.

FOUR of the six articles in this volume are concerned with the new quantum theory, L. de Broglie, M. Born and W. Heisenberg, E. Schrödinger, and N. Bohr contributing accounts of the special points of view with which they have become associated. The remaining papers are upon the intensity of reflection of X-rays (W. L. Bragg) and the discrepancies that exist between the electromagnetic theory of radiation and experiment (A. H. Compton). As in previous reports of the meetings of the Solvay Institute, each article is followed by an account of the ensuing discussion, the concluding one, on the general aspects of the new theories, being particularly interesting.

Lorentz's views on the new mechanics are stated fairly definitely in the last discussion. For him an electron was "un corpuscle qui, à un instant donné, se trouve en un point déterminé de l'espace"; he wished to "décrire tout ce qui se passe dans le monde par des images nettes"; and finally, "Faut-il nécessairement ériger l'indéterminisme en principe?"

This report is a useful record of the state of fundamental physical theory at the time when the conference was held, and as such is likely to become a valuable historical document.

Plant Life and its Romance. By Prof. F. E. Weiss. Pp. viii + 136. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 5*s.* net.

IN "Plant Life and its Romance" Prof. Weiss reproduces twelve broadcast talks to school children. Of these, the first eight treat in succession of the various plant groups as presented by the life-histories of typical members. Beginning with *Euglena* and *Chlamydomonas*, the seaweeds, fungi, bacteria, liverworts and mosses, ferns, clubmosses and horse-tails, conifers, and flowering plants are each dealt with in turn. For the general reader the greatest interest will probably be found in the last three chapters, which respectively concern themselves with evolution, with the distribution of plants, and with the history of the British flora. It is interesting to note that in treating of distribution the author clearly favours Wegener's hypothesis, although it is perhaps from the biological point of view that this hypothesis is least acceptable.

The style, as befitted the occasions, is simple, but the author's hope that the reader's appetite may be whetted for further study would be more likely of fulfilment had a less academic point of view been adopted in the earlier chapters.

Alfalfa. By J. F. Cox and C. R. Magee. (Wiley Farm Series.) Pp. xi + 101. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1928.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

THIS handbook on the growing of lucerne in the United States of America is intended for the practical farmer. The authors discuss the merits of different varieties and strains and the need that exists for securing the right strain of seed to suit local climatic conditions. There follows a description of the methods of growing, harvesting, curing, and utilising the crop and of how to grow lucerne for seed. The place which lucerne takes in the rotation under different methods of farming is also dealt with and there is a short description of the major pests and diseases which affect the crop.

The book is thoroughly practical and is well illustrated.