

number of references in the text to original papers. There is also an extensive bibliography.

The practical study of sedimentary rocks has been much to the fore in recent years. To all interested, whether from a scientific point of view, as oilfield geologists, or as soil mineralogists, this manual should prove invaluable.

*Production Conditions, Organisation and Results of Czechoslovak Farming.* Edited by Dr. Vladislav Brdlik. Part II. Pp. 242 + 79. (Prague: State Agricultural Institute, 1930.) 24s.

AN elaboration of statistical material touching the production and yield conditions in Czechoslovakian agriculture is set forth in this volume. The material is based on returns from 1652 farms for the years 1909-1913, and contains, on one hand, deductions from the statistical material published in Part I, with comparisons from a territorial point of view, and on the other hand, a critical consideration of the data from the point of view of representative investigations. The question brings into relief the changes in the organisation of farms and the results of their workings in the case of transition from the intensive and highly developed western methods to the extensive system as now practised in Czechoslovakia. The deductions arrived at from the various points of view form a basis for measures of practical and economic policy (for example, customs, finance) and for scientific purposes, and so on. The published material also has a historical significance, as it shows farming conditions as they existed before the great changes produced by the War. The data, as worked up, provide a basis for various economic calculations, as they represent stabilised and normal relations both in regard to prices and methods of farming, and the method of presentation makes it possible to use the material in the case of changing price conditions. It is claimed that this published statistical material will remain a basic and firm starting-point for the study of what is translated as the "dynamic economic phenomena".

For convenience of reference the critical examination of the data by Dr. Stanislav Kohn is given in French and German as well as Czech, similar treatment being given to the introduction, chapter headings, and certain tables.

*Chinese Civilization.* By Prof. Marcel Granet. Translated by Kathleen E. Innes and Mabel R. Brailsford. (The History of Civilization Series.) Pp. xxiii + 444 + 12 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1930.) 25s. net.

DR. GRANET'S study of Chinese civilisation ranges from the beginnings as set forth in the traditional account of the Tsu-King down to the end of the second Han dynasty in the early years of the third century A.D. It falls into two parts. In the first the political history is briefly surveyed. In the second the constitution and development of Chinese society is reconstructed. M. Granet deals critically with the traditional history and shows it to be an ideal projected into the past by antiquarian reconstruction and remodelling of the materials. Up to

the present the auxiliary studies of ethnology and archæology have thrown little light on the problems of tradition, and M. Granet constantly emphasises the need for excavation. At the same time, he is prepared to put it forward as a working hypothesis that Chinese civilisation is to be explained by the contact of two principal civilisations, one a civilisation of terraces and millet, and the other a civilisation of rice and the low-lying plains. M. Shirokogorov's investigations of the physical anthropology of Northern China would appear to support this view.

In his second part, in dealing with Chinese society M. Granet accepts tradition, but interprets it by a correlation with the evidence of the historic periods. This makes possible a reconstruction beginning with the initial organisation among the peasant families and rural communities of the plains, passing on to the foundation of the chieftainships and the signorial towns, and ending with the state of society at the beginning of the empire. Here M. Granet's work is a brilliant piece of interpretation.

*Birth Control on Trial.* By Lella Secor Florence. Pp. 160. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1930.) 5s. net.

THE enthusiastic claims of the contraceptive literature of a few years ago have now given way to a general impression that there is no satisfactory method of preventing pregnancy. This is confirmed by an investigation undertaken by Mrs. L. S. Florence at the Cambridge Birth Control Clinic, and now published under the title of "Birth Control on Trial". Her conclusion that such methods as can be recommended are too complicated and unreliable is fully justified. Every doctor sees occasional patients whom he must warn to avoid pregnancy, and to such warning there ought to be added some instruction concerning methods. There is obviously a demand for research into this subject, which can only be undertaken by the medical profession. The book is not intended to hold a brief for the ethics of birth control, but some of the case-histories it contains are sufficiently tragic to shake the convictions of the most confirmed opponent of contraception.

*General Practice (Some further Experiences).* By Dr. Ernest Ward. Pp. iv + 108. (London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1930.) 3s. 6d. net.

DR. ERNEST WARD'S second book on the joys and troubles of general practice is as entertaining as his former "Medical Adventure", in which were described clinical, obstetric, and pathological experiences. The present volume is devoted to the other side of a practitioner's life, and covers a wide range of subjects, from where and how to secure a practice, to when and whom to marry. The chapters on the arrangement of the day's work, and the attitude of the doctor to his patients, his colleagues, and unorthodox treatment, are particularly good. The author disclaims any intention of giving advice, but every page contains the equivalent of years of experience. The book is sure to be of interest to every medical man.