

develop the idea of "biological utility" in æsthetic responses and his purely extrospective technique.

Those who are emotionally anti-mechanist, who have been conditioned against even sympathy with the publicist attitude, will do well to ignore this book. It is difficult to see how they will be able to reply to much of it. But those who realise that their enjoyment of poetry, painting, music, and the other arts will in no wise be impaired by correct analysis of that enjoyment, and who prefer an objective to an introspective analysis, should welcome the publication of Mr. Sewell's book.

A. L. B.

*The House of Industry: a New Estate of the Realm.*

By S. G. Hobson. Pp. xxviii + 113. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 1931.) 1s.

SUPERFICIALLY "The House of Industry" is but another name for the House of Lords, become the chief cornerstone in the logical evolution of the ever-increasing tendency of the House of Commons to turn its economic problems over to independent 'commissions' for solution. Actually it is a British version of the Soviet Central Committee.

In his effort to make the suggestion palatable to a people to whom property rights are regarded as sacred, Mr. Hobson has left several unbridged gaps between the idea and its practical application. The House of Industry is a new name for a metamorphosed House of Lords, but the House of Industry is to be partly selected and partly elected "by groups differently graded in the industrial hierarchy". How are the groups to be graded? Who is to grade them? How will the selection and election be carried out? He does not say; nor how he will ensure the selection and election of men competent to handle economic problems. As to how the peers and people are to be convinced that the elected-selected House of Industry is in apostolic succession to the hereditary House of Lords, he is also vague.

However, concede the House of Industry established: it must be stable, with no interest beyond the needs of industry (including the worker). A selected body might be so—the judiciary is beyond reproach—but can the elected portion ever be free from the influence of its electors? And if so, why elect?

To ensure efficiency, the House of Industry is to be free of the technicalities intended to safeguard democracy, but it is to be subject to the veto of the Commons, which will remain subject to those technicalities.

The idea is interesting. It is ably advocated. But is it sound? One is not yet convinced.

*Grundprobleme der Geologie: eine Einführung in geologisches Denken.* Von Prof. Serge von Bubnoff. Pp. viii + 237. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1931.) 11-60 gold marks.

THE flood of German geological literature that began after the War continues to rise so rapidly that many worthy contributions must perforce be given scant attention by geologists to whose special interests they do not immediately refer. It is

therefore important to insist upon the outstanding virtues of this short but brilliant book by Prof. von Bubnoff. As a philosophical treatment of the methods and fundamental problems of geology it is unsurpassed, and it is not too much to say that no geologist, be he practitioner, teacher, or advanced student, could fail to profit from a careful reading of this stimulating, clearly expressed, and fair-minded survey of his subject.

Prof. Bubnoff's style is lucid and his vocabulary can be quickly mastered; his German presents no terrors and need not deter even those who usually struggle along with difficulty. The book will richly repay a sustained effort to master its contents. The first part deals with the epistemological basis of geology; the second with the interpretation of the rocky pages of the earth's long history; the third with the measurement of geological time; the fourth with the tectonic conceptions embodied in such terms as shields, stable shelves and mobile shelves, and geosynclines; and the fifth with the structure of the earth and its crustal movements. The present state of our knowledge of sedimentation, igneous activity, metamorphism, mountain-building, isostasy, and continental drift is expressed with admirable detachment from particular doctrines. Modern theories are ably discussed and critically analysed with equal emphasis on their successes and failures. There is a tendency to favour internal mobility as the cause of crustal movements on the lines suggested by Ampferer and Schwinner on the Continent and by Bull and Holmes in Great Britain, but with a cool recognition that the problems involved are still far from being satisfactorily solved.

The book is of quite unique value. Nothing like it in scope and temper has hitherto appeared, and an English translation would undoubtedly be very widely welcomed.

*The Genesis of Cancer.* By W. Sampson Handley. (The Anglo-French Library of Medical and Biological Science.) Pp. xix + 258 + 88 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1931.) 21s. net.

MR. SAMPSON HANDLEY draws his data from the experiences of a curious and progressive practical surgeon, and is concerned to define the anatomical conditions which underlie the beginnings of cancers. He finds that the feature which is common to all precancerous states is an inflammation of the smaller and mostly terminal lymphatics, leading to lymph stasis, and he upholds his thesis by the detailed histology of a considerable variety of lesions—warts and adenomata, lupus and its malignant development, chronic mastitis, skin irritation in general, especially dermatoses from tar and oil, X-rays, and radium.

The changes in the connective tissue which Mr. Handley describes are, of course, well known: he differs from most other observers in judging that they precede rather than follow cancer, and adduces much striking evidence in favour of his contention. Why exactly chronic lymph stasis should lead to cancer, he does not explain: at the moment, it is scarcely reasonable to expect him to do so.