

Naturally, due to his associations with Prof. W. A. Bone's laboratory, the work done at that institution has received first consideration, but Mr. Himus also describes methods adopted by various other official institutions and private investigators which have been proved in practice to be suitable for the purpose in view. He describes in considerable detail and with all desirable clearness the various stages in fuel analysis, and whenever he deviates from the original investigator's rules and regulations he always carefully gives his reasons for doing so, and they are generally good enough to be accepted by anybody.

New fuels are coming into use every day for new purposes, and Mr. Himus's book, compact as it is, provides a valuable guide. It is well indexed, well illustrated, well printed, and should be found in the reference library of everybody interested in the winning and using of fuel.

*The Case Against Einstein.* By Arthur Lynch. Pp. xxx+275. (London: Philip Allan and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 10s. 6d. net.

MANY thinkers, even among the "hierophantic display of the professors" who support Einstein, will be with Col. Lynch in some details of his enthusiastic criticism of the theory of relativity. The paradoxes of simultaneity, the variability of mass and the extraordinary properties of the space-time continuum, are stuffed with implications which need clarification. Einstein himself has said that his task is not yet completed. But it seems that Col. Lynch goes too far in asserting that the theory of relativity consists in giving to mathematical expressions strained meanings and in setting down as realities what are conventional modes of representing operations. In reading his book, one cannot make out whether it is addressed to the crowd, whom he despises, or to the learned, who share in his general impatience with all who disagree with him. In the first case, the author's plea would have been amusing if it was devoid of the specks of learning he places here and there. In the second case, Col. Lynch might have induced "the pundits" to give him a hearing, if he refrained from mixing his integrals with emotional remarks and irrelevant stories about himself and others. As it is presented, the book has, at times, an irritating flavour, where it could have been courageous and useful. T. G.

*The Great Age of Discovery.* Edited by A. P. Newton. Pp. xi+230+31 plates. (London: University of London Press, Ltd., 1932.) 15s. net.

THE chapters of this book consist of a series of lectures given by seven different authorities in King's College, London, designed to cover the great movements in discovery during its most fruitful age. It is not, however, merely a series of disconnected episodes, since each great voyager is regarded in his historical setting and the whole gives a coherent view of the development of the

map of the world during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Each lecture is thoroughly documented with references to original sources and there are reproductions of old maps as well as other illustrations.

In his chapter on Columbus, Prof. Newton gives reasons for discarding the story about the Toscanelli letters, and is inclined to accept Vespucci's account of his second and third voyages and to suspend opinion on his first voyage. He believes that Tristan da Cunha and not South Georgia was the southern island that Vespucci claimed to have discovered in 1502. These are merely examples of the many problems that are reviewed throughout the volume.

*Il polarografo: sua teoria e applicazioni.* Per Giovanni Semerano. Pp. vii+207. (Padova: A. Draghi, 1932.) 16 lire.

THE polarograph is an apparatus devised by Prof. Heyrovský and Dr. Shikata at the Charles University, Prague, to register automatically current-voltage curves during the electrolysis of solutions, using a cathode of dropping mercury.

By the aid of this apparatus, Heyrovský and his collaborators have made a series of investigations on 'polarographic analysis'. The method has not only been used in studying the deposition of metals from solutions of their salts but has also found application in elucidating some minor problems in such widely separated fields as biology (lymph and cutaneous diseases), sugar and petroleum technology and pharmacology.

In his very informative Italian monograph, Dr. Semerano describes the apparatus and its uses in the determination of deposition potentials, etc. He discusses the significance of the current maxima observed in certain circumstances and also gives an account of the applications of the method. More than a hundred papers on polarographic researches are cited in the bibliography.

*The Map of England: or About England with an Ordnance Map.* By Col. Sir Charles Close. Pp. x+166+8 plates. (London: Peter Davies, Ltd., 1932.) 6s. net.

To all who use Ordnance maps in the field this book should prove most attractive and full of indications for further exploration of the countryside. Broadly speaking, it consists of three parts. First comes a historical sketch of the mapping of Great Britain and the origin and growth of the Ordnance Survey. Next comes instruction in the reading of a map, which should enable many users of the map to find much more in it than they knew was there; and lastly, there are several chapters on the archaeology of maps as expressed in place names, ancient buildings, fortifications, etc. These chapters are exceptionally interesting. The book is illustrated with a few photographs and reproductions of maps and there are useful bibliographical references to each chapter.