

photographs are the work of Dr. W. F. Hume and the present director of the Geological Survey, Mr. O. H. Little. The plates, some of which include up to five figures, measure 20 in. by 14 in.; they have been executed in sepia by the rotary photogravure process, and in them the varied scenery of the Egyptian deserts with their high mountains, broad valleys, wind-swept plateaux and vast areas of sand, is magnificently portrayed. The popular impression of the deserts as broad flat expanses of sand stretching away from the Nile valley in monotonous uniformity is speedily corrected by this fascinating album, which is designed to bring out the great variety of the features displayed by a wilderness where in many places geological structures and geographical contrasts are to be seen on a strikingly conspicuous scale.

In a well-written introduction the various features of interest presented by each group of related plates, from those devoted to the Mediterranean coast, the depressions, oases and mountains, to those showing wells, mining centres and other aspects of human activities, have been simply but adequately described. In every respect the album reaches a high standard of achievement and congratulations are due to all who have been concerned in its production.

*On the Mechanism of Oxidation.* By Prof. Heinrich Wieland. (Yale University: Mrs. Hepsa Ely Silliman Memorial Lectures.) Pp. x+124. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1932.) 15s. 6d. net.

*Über den Verlauf der Oxydationsvorgänge.* Von Prof. Dr. Heinrich Wieland. Pp. viii+96. (Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke, 1933.) 7.80 gold marks.

AMERICAN universities are fortunate in being able to use the income derived from various legacies to attract distinguished European savants across the Atlantic to lecture to them. Prof. Heinrich Wieland of Munich gave six Silliman memorial lectures at Yale University last year, which are now available in both English and German in book form. The lectures follow familiar lines in this subject, dealing with oxidation and autoxidation in general, the activation of hydrogen, acetic acid fermentation, the dehydrogenase of milk and the catalytic effect of iron. The subject is expounded in a clear manner, and it is useful to have Wieland's explanation of it in English, particularly as much of the original German literature on the subject is, for some unknown reason, somewhat difficult to follow. It is remarkable how varied are the ways in which the simple oxygen molecule reacts with different substances and how much has still to be discovered before an adequate understanding of what occurs during the oxidation processes in the living cell can be achieved. All that has so far been accomplished forms but an introduction to this problem.

*Institutional Revenue: a Study of the Influence of Social Institutions on the Distribution of Wealth.* By H. D. Dickinson. Pp. 264. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 1932.) 10s. 6d. net.

Most economists in discussing the subject of inequality in the distribution of wealth have been content to give either a descriptive account of social institutions affecting distribution or an analysis of income into rent, interest, wages and profits. Mr. Dickinson attempts to combine the institutional and analytical points of view. Defining an institution as a set pattern of social behaviour with respect to some function or functions, he puts forward the theory that certain social institutions, though not necessarily only those embodied in definite organisations or associations, maintain the existence of non-competing groups which by means of limitations on entry, secure an 'institutional revenue' akin to a monopoly revenue for the more favoured of these groups. There is of course considerable mobility between the groups since Western society is not rigidly divided into orders or castes like that of old Japan or modern India. Members of the more favoured groups, however, are only subject to outside competition from exceptional persons in less advantaged groups.

The author makes no reference to Nicholson's "Principles of Political Economy", with its important discussion of the institution of private property, but otherwise the book is of exceptional interest and will well repay reading.

*Grundzüge einer Konstitutionsanatomie.* Von Prof. Dr. Walter Brandt. Pp. iv+382. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1931.) 29.80 gold marks.

THIS presentation of the fundamentals of constitutional anatomy breaks new ground. It is a laudable attempt to synthesise into a whole the work in the various fields of bodily habitus, constitution and racial characters, attention throughout being focused on the underlying biological basis. At the same time, from the analytical side the problems of constitution are dissected in terms of structure, growth and differentiation. The comparative treatment of "Entwicklungsmechanik" is traced in animal forms ranging from the invertebrates to man, with numerous references to analogous processes in the plant world.

The presentation of our state of knowledge as regards breeding of horses and cattle is related to the different types of bodily habitus in man. The main phenomenon of intersexuality in amphibians and birds is discussed in terms of the endocrine glands, with special reference to the particular time at which the endocrine factors reach their maximum potency.

The wealth of illustration in this book, together with the broad view of problems in constitution throughout animate forms, cannot fail to remind one of the distance traversed since Andrius Vesalius described the anatomy of the dissected corpse.