

4.89. In toluene, however, Biltz found the value 11.4." This latter value is obviously incorrect and, indeed, has nothing to do with potassium perchlorate, but is, actually, the density of rhenium dioxide. Then again, on page 16, a table is given of the principal lines in the optical spectrum of the element, which is stated to be "by Loring", whereas it is due to W. F. Meggers and is merely quoted by Loring in an article.

At the end of the text there is given a chronological bibliography which the author claims to be complete and to have been compiled with great care. It is, however, not complete and even omits one or two references which have been mentioned in the text. Moreover, the reviewer found at least a dozen errors of one kind or another in it. Nevertheless, the bibliography is very useful and is reasonably complete, particularly with regard to papers dealing with the chemistry of the metal and its compounds.

G. R. DAVIES

The Students Handbook to Foundations of Animal Feeding

By L. T. Lowe. Edited by G. H. Purvis. (Published for the Monmouthshire Institute of Agriculture.) Pp. 93. (Worcester: Littlebury and Co., Ltd., 1948.) 8s. 6d. net.

THIS small book, according to its dust-cover, purports "to provide as concisely as possible essential modern technical and scientific information for those engaged in training and advising agricultural students of all kinds, and especially those at agricultural and horticultural institutes", in which activities author and editor have considerable experience. Unfortunately this reviewer holds the opinion that clarity is preferable to conciseness and repetition, and that punctuation and careful proof correction are essential in even the most elementary scientific texts. Moreover, he also doubts whether acquisition of a pattern reflects a thorough appreciation of principles. For these reasons he finds this compilation disappointing. Even if the purpose were to provide only a handy reference, little is gained by adding an eight-page glossary which mainly repeats or paraphrases explanations in the seventy-page text, or by separating "Index, Animal Nutrition" from "Index, Feeding Stuffs".

J. E. NICHOLS

Your Body and the Way it Works

By Prof. Winifred Cullis. (Understanding the Modern World Series.) Pp. 32. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. n.d.) 3s. 6d. net.

IN her broadcasts to schools and lectures to members of the Armed Forces, as well as in instructional films, Prof. Winifred Cullis has gained an enviable reputation as a popular interpreter of human physiology. In her latest little book she adds to that reputation by successful collaboration with Ian Morrison, an accomplished artist who has also had experience of teaching physiology to young people in school. As in other books in this series, the author expresses herself largely through the artist, each topic being presented visually rather than prosaically. The section dealing with the brain and nerves, for example, contains enough diagrams with suitable legends to enable the young reader to understand the general working of the human nervous system. The diagrams have been ingeniously devised and well drawn in attractive colouring, and should stimulate sufficient interest to lead the reader at once to the accompanying text, which has been clearly thought out to fit in with the diagrams. Particularly fine sections are those dealing with the special senses and

reproduction, the latter containing one diagram making crystal clear a point which teachers find so difficult to convey to young students, namely, the exchanges between embryo and mother in the placental circulation where the two blood circulations do not themselves mix. The book also contains a useful supplementary section indicating practical hints of what may be done to test the statements made in other parts of the book.

T. H. H.

Photographic Surveying

By Colonel B. B. Talley and Paul H. Robbins. Pp. v+223. (New York, Chicago and London: Pitman Publishing Corporation, 1945.) 24s. net.

THIS book has been written as an introduction to the subject for those who may be concerned with photogrammetry, either from the aspect of flying and photography or as engineers who wish to make use of it, rather than for those who wish to gather a detailed knowledge of the processes. As the authors remark in the preface, "Engineers especially find that a basic knowledge of the subject is essential for full understanding of the possibilities to which photography may be put. Especially is this true of Civil Engineers. . . . The Armed Forces have been quick to realise this as is evidenced by the inclusion of this subject as part of the basic training for members of the air forces."

In view of its purpose the book is mainly descriptive in character and is profusely illustrated. It is very readable and should be easily understood by those who wish to acquire the outlines of the subject. The treatment is from the American aspect, British practice not being mentioned, although a number of European instruments are referred to. The inclusion of more than a passing reference to multi-lens photography and its rectification is somewhat surprising, because the almost universal use of wide-angle single-camera photography has superseded it except for the assembly of three cameras—generally known as Tri-Metrogon—for reconnaissance mapping. With these reservations, the book can be thoroughly recommended to those who wish to gain a general idea of the subject.

C. A. H.

Das Pflanzenkleid der Mittelmeerländer

Von Prof. Dr. M. Rikli. Three vols. Pp. 1418+200 plates. (Bern: Hans Huber, 1943, 1946 and 1948.) 122.50 Swiss francs.

VOLUME 3 completes Prof. Rikli's authoritative and unique work on the Mediterranean countries, a work which, in addition to assembling a vast amount of botanical information on the region, depicts the effect upon the plant cover not only of climate, but also of the various civilizations, old and new, which have made their mark upon the Mediterranean.

The first two volumes have already been reviewed in *Nature*, 152, 117 (1943); 153, 445 (1944); and 160, 416 (1947). The third and final volume supplies an author index and a very full genera and subject index combined. The greater part of the volume, however, is occupied by a list of the pertinent literature, which comprises 3,700 titles classified according to subject, the entries under regional plant geography—a very large section—again being subdivided geographically. Further, there is a list of the author's extensive travels in the region over a period covering 1889 to 1936, lists of the plates, figures in the text and maps of plant distribution, and an index of the countries, places and civilizations treated.

G. M. ROSEVEARE