of Scotland Technical College. New York, Van Nostrand Co. \$1.25 net.

In the first of these volumes efforts have been made to supply the organic chemist with a scheme of analysis and identification of the groups and compounds comparable to the scheme used for the identification of the metallic ions and acid groups. A system of this kind has been greatly needed; but, owing to the great similarity of organic compounds, so far as their constituents are concerned, and to the great diversity, so far as their behavior is concerned, up to the present has not been successfully developed.

By classifying the substances according to the elements they contain and by studying their action with water, alkali, acid, reducing agents, etc., the authors have been able to separate the substances generally met with into groups which in turn are subdivisions of classes. Having reached this point, the exact division to which the substance belongs can be determined by specific tests. Detailed methods are given for testing for the different classes of compounds, and a table of many of the more important substances with their physical and chemical properties serves as a valuable and handy reference. While this scheme of analysis may seem very crude as compared with the one we use in organic chemistry, it is a step in the right direction and worthy of careful study and testing.

The second of these books has the same object in view, but is on a less systematic and comprehensive scale. The general reactions seem too few and indefinite and the special reactions not specific enough to enable one to identify organic compounds by its aid unless considerable reference is made to other records.

Contemporary Chemistry. A Survey of the Present State, Methods and Tendencies of Chemical Science. By E. E. FOURNIER D'ALBE, B.Sc.; A.R.C.S.; M.R.I.A., author of "The Electron Theory, etc." New York, D. Van Nostrand Co. \$1.25 net.

The author has written a very interesting "birds-eye view of the whole field of modern

chemistry." While not intended as a history of chemistry, all the recent discoveries of importance have been included and their importance and relations to other phenomena have been pointed out. One who has worked in some other science than chemistry, as well as students of this subject, will find this book instructive and well worth reading.

Progressive Problems in General Chemistry.

By CHARLES BASKERVILLE, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, and W. L. ESTABROOKE, Ph.D., Instructor in Chemistry, College of the City of New York. Heath & Co. 1910.

The authors have brought together a large number of problems covering all the phases of chemical action. This book will furnish the teacher a mine of material from which he may select examples to meet the needs of the students as the different subjects are studied and so test their understanding of the principles involved. The solution of problems, such as these, is of special value in the early stages of the study of chemistry and especially with young students, as it demands the power of applying the facts and reasoning from them and not simply the ability to commit facts and reactions to memory. The value of this work might be increased by adding at the beginning of each subject a general statement as to the methods of solving the problems in this section and the principles involved for the aid of those who are not sufficiently familiar with the subject to work it out entirely independently.

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Bibliography of Non-Euclidean Geometry, including the Theory of Parallels, the Foundations of Geometry, and Space of n Dimensions. By DUNCAN M. Y. SOMMERVILLE. London, Harrison and Sons. 1911. 8vo. Pp. xii + 403.

In these days, when a non-Newtonian mechanics, based on the principle of relativity, is forcing itself upon the attention of the scientific world, it is instructive to notice how valuable the non-Euclidean and n -dimensional