ON THE NATURE OF THINGS. By HUGH WOODS, M.D., B.A., F.C.S. Pp. 248. New York: William Wood & Co.

FOR the general student of science, with a classical or metaphysical bent, this book will serve as a gently stimulating library companion. The author is evidently a great admirer and close student of Lucretius, and he here reasserts the doctrine of the poet of more than 2000 years ago and amplifies it with some of the results of modern scientific investigation. He finds that what Lucretius stated in his verse is still regarded as fundamentally true, and one can infer that the author, after the manner of the ancients, would enjoy a disputation with any one venturing to differ. W. A.

PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY IN MODERN MEDICINE. By J. J. R. MACLEOD, Professor of Physiology in the University of Toronto; Formerly Professor of Physiology in the Western Reserve University, Cleveland; Assisted by Roy G. Pearce and by others. Pp. 233; illustrations, including 11 plates in color. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company.

ONE of the aspects of research and teaching which is receiving attention by several groups of active scientific men at the present time is how to distribute the results of recent work, in any line, to those who ought to know about them and to use them in their professional work. Or, viewing the same situation from the standpoint of the individual, the question often arises, "How is one to keep up with the recent literature?" It is agreed that any scheme for making available the knowledge on scientific subjects at a given time must include three distinct types of publication: (1) current bibliographies in all the various lines of scientific work; (2) annual reports on the progress of studies; (3) systematic treatises and handbooks on all major subjects in research and practice. It is earnestly to be hoped that American organization and scholarship will enable this country to become independent along these lines. In the meantime, books of the type of the one under review are very important and fill a useful place in the distribution of knowledge. In this volume the authors review those portions of physiology and biochemistry which they believe to be of special value to the clinical investigator. They aim to present the current knowledge of human physiology, in so far as this can be used, in a general way, to advance the understanding of diseases. The applications of biochemical knowledge are considered in relation to some of the obscure problems of clinical medicine, such as those of diabetes, nephritis, acidosis, goitre and myxedema. Many topics that are ordinarily passed over cursorily in the text-book are treated quite at length. Such is the