Cover and headings lead one to expect an unbalanced sensational book; this is not the case. The author seems to feel that to make his book interesting to the general reader he must occasionally try to be flippant and sprightly by using slangy colloquialisms. He may be assured that this is not necessary; he has an interesting story to tell and he tells it in a vivid, interesting way. The book is so good that it is a pity it should be marred by these blemishes, and if the author would cut them out in his next edition his book and its readers would be gainers.

The title-page describes the plan of the book; it suggests Lassar-Cohn's famous "Chemistry in Daily Life," which is written on similar lines, but each contains much that the other does not. It is well illustrated and should be welcome to libraries and to the general reader.

EDWARD RENOUF

Exercises in Physical Chemistry. By W. A. ROTH, a. o. Professor of Physical Chemistry in Greifswald; translated by A. T. CAMERON. New York, D. Van Nostrand Co., \$2.00.

This book, embodying, as the author states, the practical course used in Professor Nernst's laboratories, needs no words of praise. Well-chosen experiments are described with full details and due emphasis is laid on consideration of sources of error, methods of calculation, theory of phenomena involved and all that a beginner needs to be told in order to gain the real educational value of the work.

A Text-book of Physical Chemistry; Theory and Practise. By ARTHUR W. EWELL, Assistant Professor of Physics, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. \$2.25.

If this book has a fault, it suffers from "the last infirmity of noble minds," extravagant ambition. Within the scope of 360 pages the author attempts to give "a laboratory manual, a text-book" and a "convenient book of reference." Considering the nature of his task, the author's success is remarkable, though it suggests strongly the breathless haste of the inexperienced tourist trying to "do" all Europe in three months. As a laboratory

manual the directions are hardly full enough; a text-book, in the sense of a book from which the average student could, if necessary, educate himself, it certainly is not; as a work of reference it should prove useful to general students who can not afford to buy larger works. But rather than any of these it resembles those sheets of "lecture notes" which many teachers give their students for purposes of review and as such it is unusually excellent. Statements of fact are almost uniformly correct and theoretical demonstrations, though concise, are adequate, and do not, as in so many similar works, shirk the use of elementary calculus. The author evidently has a thorough grasp of his subject, and, as is shown by a judicious selection of references, a first-hand acquaintance with the literature. But some experience of college and university students causes the reviewer to wonder whether one man in a score could assimilate without mental indigestion, all the contents of this book in less than three or four years of undergraduate study. Expanded to three times the size and properly peptonized it would make one of the best text-books in the English language for post-graduate students specializing in physical chemistry. B. B. TURNER

The History of the Teaching of Elementary Geometry, with Reference to Present-day Problems. Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy in the Faculty of Philosophy, Columbia University. By ALVA WALKER STAMPER. Pp. x + 163. (Preface dated 1906.)

Comparatively few scholars in the United States are selecting the history of their chosen science as a subject of research. For that reason it is an unusual pleasure to welcome the author of this monograph into the ranks of historians of science. Much has been published on the history of geometry, but the book under review is the first devoted to the history of the *teaching* of elementary geometry. Naturally, one could not trace the history of the teaching of geometry without making frequent references to the history of