

graph without previously enlisting the services of a trained morphologist, with special knowledge of the group, to correct and revise the introduction and the morphological details in the description of the genera.

A monograph written by Mr. Cash, with the co-operation of a good morphologist, might have been one of really first-rate importance. As it now appears, however, useful as it may be in some respects and valuable in others, it is not complete, and does not constitute a serious advance of knowledge.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Physikalisch-chemisches Centralblatt.* Band i. and ii. (in parts). (Berlin: Borntraeger, 1903-1905.)

WE have received the first two volumes of the above serial, the first number of which was issued on December 15, 1903, twenty-four parts and authors' and subject indexes appearing annually. Besides the German title, the cover bears the titles "Physico-Chemical Review" and "Revue physico-chimique," and the abstracts of French and English papers are given in the respective languages, all others being in German.

The periodical is edited by Dr. Max Rudolphi, of Darmstadt, with the collaboration of chemists and physicists in various parts of the world, London being represented by Sir W. Ramsay. Most, if not all, of the papers abstracted would doubtless be found to be noticed in other publications, and although the multiplication of such serials is not to be commended, this one may appeal to physical chemists who prefer to find abstracts on their own subjects separated from those of general physics and of inorganic and organic chemistry. In order that the serial should be useful to workers, it is necessary that the abstracts should be given as soon as possible after the publication of the original papers from which they are taken. It would not be just to criticise a serial in its infancy, but some of the abstracts might have appeared earlier; possibly their publication has been unavoidably delayed, and as time progresses the cause of this reproach will be removed. The periodical is well printed and contains many tabulated results.

*The Philosophy of Martineau in Relation to the Idealism of the Present Day.* By Prof. Henry Jones. Pp. 37. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1905.) Price 1s. net.

THIS thoughtful and eloquent address, originally delivered at the celebration of the Martineau centenary, contains much more about absolute idealism than about the philosophic system of the great Unitarian preacher. Prof. Jones, after pointing out the close agreement between Martineau and the Idealists in several respects, finds his text in the division made at the beginning of "Types of Ethical Theory" between systems that start with nature or God, and those that start with the spirit of man. Absolute idealism, of course, ranks under the former head, and the idiopsychological ethics of Martineau under the latter. So in the remainder of the paper the doctrines of absolute idealism are re-stated in a form such as might rob Martineau's chief objections of their force—the objections, in particular, that ethical interests are not conserved, and that a refusal to sever man from nature and God means that man is merged into them and lost within them. Whether the reader will think this re-statement absolutely convincing or not will probably depend on his previous sympathies. Prof. Jones takes occasion, in passing, to notice the

similarity of Dr. James Ward's "activity" and Martineau's "free will" as philosophic explanations, and takes occasion, too, as in many other recent utterances, to have one or two clever flings at the Pragmatists.

*The Romance of the South Seas.* By Clement L. Wragge. Pp. xv+312, with 84 illustrations. (London: Chatto and Windus, 1906.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

IN connection with Mr. Wragge's work as Government Meteorologist of Queensland, he paid a visit to New Caledonia, with the view of establishing a weather-observing station there. In this book he gives an account of his visit to the island, and also to Rarotonga and Tahiti. We wish there were more information in the book about the meteorological results of his journey. The volume contains instead simply a chatty account of the islands; and the most interesting matter is the author's visit to the convict prisons in New Caledonia. At Tahiti he paid a pilgrimage to Point Venus, where Cook on June 3, 1769, observed the transit of Venus. The author is enthusiastic over the scenery in both islands, and the only thing that justifies the mention of "romance" in the title is the spell of their scenery. The author's style is very discursive, and the book is full of smoke-room gossip and snatches of sailors' songs. It is illustrated by some good photographs, and in an appendix is a list of some shells and corals which the author collected in the Society Islands.

*The Wild Fauna and Flora of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information,* additional series v. Pp. vii+223. Edited by Sir William Thiselton-Dyer. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1906.) Price 2s.

THIS volume is the combined work of a number of well-known zoologists and botanists, each of whom has made a special section the subject of his own investigation; it ought, therefore, to be exhaustive and trustworthy, as indeed it appears to be. The chief interest attaching to a catalogue of this nature is in relation to the important evidence it will afford in the future as to how a country fauna and flora become gradually modified as their surroundings become altered with the incoming of suburban conditions. Many such changes have already taken place in the animal and vegetable products of Kew; and many more are likely to take place in the near future. One of the most remarkable instances of adaptation to new conditions in the London parks and gardens generally is afforded by the wood-pigeon, which in the country is one of the wildest and shiest of all birds. A conservative spirit—possibly in the case of the mammals a little too conservative—we are glad to see, obtains in the matter of nomenclature. R. L.

*Physical Chemistry, and its Applications in Medical and Biological Science.* By Dr. Alex. Findlay. Pp. 68. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1905.) 2s. net.

THIS little book makes its appearance at an opportune moment, for no one engaged in biological work can now neglect the teachings of physical chemistry, and the great influence which this branch is exercising on the development of the biological sciences. It is just the sort of work the physiologist, pathologist, bacteriologist, and scientific medical practitioner need—brief and at the same time dealing in a simple manner with fundamental facts. The author thus reviews diffusion, osmosis, cryoscopic methods, and the study