

Elementary Chemistry. By R. H. Bradbury, A.M., Ph.D. Pp. xii+157. (New York: Appleton, 1903.) THE volume, according to the author, is for beginners in secondary schools and colleges. Whether this implies any previous knowledge of chemistry on their part is not stated, but, to judge from the character of the contents, the book may be placed in the hands of any beginner. The author has evidently taken great pains to arrange his subject-matter, and to present it in a simple and logical form—not by any means an easy task—and the result is decidedly good.

It is always possible to find points in the arrangement of a text-book which do not accord entirely with one's own views. For example, the first chemical experiment which is described is the electrolysis of water to demonstrate its composition. It is difficult to present this process honestly to the beginner. The author does his best by stating that "it is impossible to explain the rôle of the sulphuric acid in an elementary work, further than to say that while it conducts the current it is found unaltered after the experiment, and only the water is decomposed." After all this is only dodging the difficulty, which might be so easily avoided by reserving the experiment for a later stage, when the author could take the reader into his confidence.

The author in his preface acknowledges his indebtedness to Bancroft's work on the phase rule and to the work of another modern writer on physical chemistry, but the elementary student will be relieved to find that no reference to the phase rule, and very little to "physical chemistry," is embodied in the text. Arrhenius's theory of electrolysis is, however, introduced, and there can be little objection to this, seeing that a student may just as well begin to exert his imagination on the atoms in solution as in the gaseous form. It is just as difficult to form a mental picture of charcoal as a constituent of carbon dioxide as of the ion CO_3 . The only difference between the two conceptions is that one is a demonstrable fact and the other a very useful fiction.

An important feature of the book is the experimental part which is to be used as a laboratory guide, and contains a series of simple and useful experiments plentifully sprinkled with questions and notes of interrogation. The volume is, in reality, two distinct books with separate indexes. Might one suggest their future publication in separate parts; for not only is it difficult to remember that the index to the first part is in the middle of the volume, but as the second part is for use in the laboratory, the whole book, which looks very nice in its olive-green cover, is bound to suffer from the proximity of reagents?

The book is well illustrated, and is further embellished with the portraits of ten distinguished chemists, among whom Moissan has the place of honour in the frontispiece. J. B. C.

Hampshire Days. By W. H. Hudson. Pp. xvi+344; illustrated. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1903.) Price 10s. 6d.

THE author of "The Naturalist in La Plata" has found a thoroughly congenial subject in Gilbert White's country, and discourses, in the work before us, in a delightfully gossipy way of the scenery, people, birds, insects, and plants of one of the most beautiful of all English counties. As usual, Mr. Hudson introduces, when occasion arises, earnest trains of thought, which raise his work far above the average of writings of this nature.

The greater part of the contents of this volume, we are told in the preface, is new, although nearly the whole scope of the work is based on certain articles which have appeared in *Longman's Magazine*. Although devoted as a whole to Hampshire, the book,

as might be expected, mentions many episodes which might perfectly well have happened in any other English county. Notable among these is the account of the manner in which a young cuckoo ejected the rightful occupant—a robin—of the nest in which the intruder was hatched, an action of which the author was fortunate enough to have been an eye-witness. Perhaps the most curious feature in this drama was the utter neglect of the ejected and dying robin by its parents. In another part of the same chapter the author directs attention to the prevalence of red in the coats of forest animals at the time that the autumn russet prevails in their surroundings. He has, however, omitted to mention that it is just before this season the red deer and the roe change their summer russet for their winter blue.

The account of Selborne itself is continued in the latter half of the book. Over the natural beauties of the village and its surroundings, the author, needless to say, waxes eloquent, although he is far from complimentary to the personal appearance of its inhabitants. After writing the sentence that "if you want to see, I will not say a handsome, nor a pretty, but a passably fresh and pleasant face among the cottagers, you must go out of Selborne to some neighbouring village to look for it," will the author, we wonder, venture to pay another visit? We cannot, perhaps, bestow greater praise on Mr. Hudson's "Hampshire" than by saying it is fully equal to the best of his earlier efforts.

R. L.

Wörterbuch der philosophischen Grundbegriffe. Von Dr. Friedr. Kirchner. Vierte neubearbeitete Auflage von Dr. Michaëlis. Pp. vi+587. (Leipzig: Verlag der Dürr'schen Buchhandlung, 1903.) Price 5.60 marks.

It is always difficult to indicate exactly the value of a dictionary, and that difficulty is increased when for the vices of omission it pleads the virtues of brevity. A dictionary of philosophy is hardest of all to judge because of a certain inner conflict between the spirit of philosophy and the nature of dictionaries. If the publishers feel justified in saying that this book responds to a widely felt need, we must admit that a fourth edition seems good evidence. To judge from the book, that need is for brief epitomes of great doctrines and concise definitions of terms. Terms of art are a fit subject for the lexicographer, more especially such remnants of constructive ingenuity as "Häccität," "Asëitit," and the like. But philosophical concepts and theories are not so tractable; here brevity is an ambiguous virtue, and the more ambitious articles seem to be so planned as to have full significance only for the more advanced student who, on the other hand, would bring to the book all he found there. "Kantianismus," for example, occupies two-thirds of a page. Of "Hedonismus" in modern times we learn only that it is more modest than of yore; where the term explained is one in common use, the strictly philosophical significance is omitted; e.g. under "Liebe ($\epsilon\rho\omega\varsigma$)," the Platonic and Neo-Platonic significance is unmentioned; the direction "Vgl. Dualismus" seems purely illusory. Biography does not come within the scope of this book, but the references are usually given with dates. At the end there is a "Zeittafel" which might well be useful. It seems a matter for regret that the terms of the "new psychology" have not been included; they might at least outrival "Buridans Esel" or "Krokodilschluss" as Grundbegriffe. Yet allowing for these limitations, the book is a praiseworthy effort; it is generally accurate, sensibly printed, and of a useful size. Such eccentricities as "Hutcheson 1609-1747" (p. 14) can be corrected by the reader from the "Zeittafel." The bibliography attempted in some articles is a good feature worthy of more development.

G. S. B.