

A considerable part of Schryver's book is occupied with the chemistry of the nucleic acids and their decomposition products, especially the purine and pyrimidine bodies. In this he has followed a general practice of writers on proteins for which, however, there is little warrant, as these bodies bear no chemical relation to the protein molecule proper. The only reason for including the nucleic acids is the fact that they are always found in nature together with the proteins or the protamines. This practice, while convenient for those familiar with the proteins, leads to confusion among those who take only a general interest and read such books as the one under consideration in order to obtain a general knowledge of the chemistry of the proteins. Schryver's book gives a good review of the present knowledge of this branch of chemistry, contains few errors and omits but few of the important facts that are known.

THOMAS B. OSBORNE.

A TEXT-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND PHARMACY. By WILLIAM RUSSELL JONES. Illustrated. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1905. 462 pages. Price, \$2.50.

This is one of the books usually classed as "Medical Chemistry" and contains, according to the preface, "all that is needed in chemistry for students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy." It is divided into six parts, including sections on Physics, Chemical Philosophy, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Methods of Quantitative Analysis and Physiological Chemistry. The tests of qualitative analysis are included under Inorganic Chemistry; the section on Quantitative Methods consists of but 7 pages, not very clearly written. While the book contains a fairly satisfactory compilation of facts, it abounds in loose and inaccurate statements and can be recommended only to those teachers who believe that medical students require but little knowledge of chemistry.

J. H. LONG.

THE CYANIDE INDUSTRY. By R. ROBINE AND M. LENGLEN. Translated by J. ARTHUR LECLERC, with an appendix by C. E. MUNROE. New York: John Wiley & Sons. 1906. 8vo. xi+401 pp. Price, \$4.00.

The great development in the manufacture of commercial cyanides, during the last fifteen years, has followed as a natural result of their increased use in gold extraction by the MacArthur-Forrest process. Considerable literature upon cyanides is

scattered through numerous scientific and trade papers, but to find the various articles costs much time and trouble. In this volume the authors have undertaken to bring this material together for the busy reader. The work is divided into four parts: The Chemistry of Cyanogen; Present Condition of the Cyanide Industry; Methods of Manufacturing Cyanide Compounds; The Use of Cyanogen Compounds; a short chapter of Conclusions, and an Appendix, containing a valuable Digest of U. S. patents relating to the cyanide processes for the recovery of precious metals. This Digest by Professor C. E. Munroe adds much to the usefulness of the book. It seems unfortunate that Part II, upon the Present Condition of the Cyanide Industry, should be so condensed—only about four pages of descriptive matter, chiefly dealing with conditions in France, and seven pages devoted to lists of manufacturers and statistics of imports into France. The discussion of the methods of manufacture of cyanides, and of the numerous processes proposed or patented, is satisfactory, just the essentials of each process being reviewed concisely, with frequent comment upon the difficulties to be met. A compilation of this kind, of a large number of investigations, patents and working processes, relating to a single industry, is most useful to technologists, lawyers, and manufacturers, but is probably too technical for the general reader. The translator has done his work in a very acceptable way, but the influence of the foreign idiom is occasionally noticeable; thus on pages 274 and 281 appear references to "heating by means of coils of steam." A few misprints, inevitable in a first edition, will be noted: there is a discrepancy in the dates assigned to the discovery of Prussian blue on pages 69 and 81, while on page 2 of the introduction this discovery is attributed to Scheele, where potassium ferrocyanide was intended. With proper names there is also some difficulty at times, *e. g.*, we find Fowlis and Forest, several times each. Other slips in typography occur on pages 194, 289, 306, 308, 351, while on a great many pages failure of a type to print will be noticed. Aside from these minor faults the typographic work is very good. To those who may, hereafter, have occasion to look up points connected with the cyanide industry, the book will be of great assistance, and to those who may be already familiar with the industry, there is much that will be of interest in its pages.

F. H. T.