

## NEW BOOKS.

**Victor Meyer.** By RICHARD MEYER. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m. b. H., Leipzig, 1917. xv + 462 pp. 17 × 24.5 cm.

The book is divided into two parts. Part 1 deals with the life, and Part 2 with the work. All scientists will enjoy reading the first portion because of the intimate picture it gives of the life of a prominent scientist, and of the world he moved in. Organic chemists will give close attention to Part 2, because here we find a record of pioneer work in organic chemistry: the nitro compound of the aliphatic series, the hydroxylamines, thiophene and its derivatives, stereoisomerism, etc. The physical chemist will also read with interest the account of Victor Meyer's method of determining vapor density, and his researches dealing with the effect of high temperature.

Altogether this book is a delight to the lover of the history of chemistry. Its record of Meyer who held chairs of chemistry at Zürich, Göttingen and Heidelberg, and who was the intimate friend of Bunsen, Baeyer, Wallach, Fischer, Kekulé, and others, is well worth while.

BENJAMIN HARROW

**Chemie der Organischen Farbstoffe.** By DR. FRITZ MAYER, A. O. Hon. Professor an der Universität Frankfurt A. M. Julius Springer, Berlin, 1921. VI + 257 pp. 5 fig. 24.5 × 16 cm. Price M. 138; bound, M. 150.

This book is intended to take the place of R. Nietzki's "Die Chemie der Organischen Farbstoffe" which has been out of print for some years. It is not an exhaustive treatise to be used solely as a reference book, but a readable and up-to-date survey of the chemistry of synthetic and natural dyestuffs. The author has succeeded in summarizing in a relatively small volume the most interesting and essential portions of a very large and complex subject. The treatment follows the orthodox lines: color and constitution, dyeing properties and coal tar refining are briefly discussed in the introduction; the usual classes of synthetic dyes are next considered and a final chapter on natural coloring materials (including the anthocyanins) concludes the book. The whole subject is presented from a very general point of view; reference is made not only to recent technical advances but also to the results of certain investigations of theoretical interest, such as the mechanism of the coupling reaction of diazonium salts and the structure of indigo. The book will be of value both to the advanced student who wishes an introduction to this important subject, and to the organic chemist who is interested in the modern developments in this field.

JAMES B. CONANT