

The second part of the book is a treatise on organic chemistry of an original sort. The author has used the Daltonian symbols in modified form, and the result is, as might have been expected, that the poor devil of a printer has had a hard time of it. So long as printing is done as at present, authors should beware of using new characters; by so doing they not only increase the already difficult task of the printer but really put themselves at his mercy. If only one printer have the character he must be allowed to do the printing of course. While such symbols have certain advantages, their disadvantages seem greater. Only a few people seem to be able to remember that, after all, our symbols represent only very imperfect knowledge, and that they are only tentative. A chemist can, therefore, read this treatise with interest and profit; it can scarcely be considered a good book for beginners, but it was probably not intended for beginners.

EDWARD HART.

THE INCREASE IN WEIGHT OF TIN AND LEAD ON CALCINATION. BY
JEAN REY, 1630. Alembic Club Reprints, No. II. 54 pp. Edinburgh:
William F. Clay, 1894.

Rey is one of the less well-known investigators of the seventeenth century. He is properly to be classed with Hooke, Mayow, and Boyle, or the Oxford School of Chemists, as Thorpe has fitly called them, in their work upon the increase of weight of the metals when calcined, and the part played by the air in these processes. That which Thorpe has so well done for the others is now done for Rey in this little book. The quaintness of the original is well preserved in the translation, and the book is very valuable as giving an insight into the wisdom and the childishness of the times. His self-applause in the triumphant summing up of the evidence in support of his theory, that the air played an important part in the phenomena observed, is delicious.

The Alembic Club is doing a most valuable work for the science in the republication of these early essays. They are interesting and helpful to the earnest student and should have a wide circulation.

F. P. VENABLE.