

THE ELECTRIC FURNACE. BY HENRI MOISSAN. Authorized translation by VICTOR LENHER, PH.D., University of Wisconsin. Easton, Pa.: The Chemical Publishing Co. ix + 305 pp. Price, \$3.00.

The original edition of this book has already been reviewed in this Journal, and is probably familiar to most users of electric furnaces. This English edition will bring the subject before a wider circle of readers and will doubtless stimulate the already rapidly increasing interest in the electric furnace and its products. As a field for experimentation the chemistry of high temperatures offers many attractions. It is comparatively new, but has already yielded remarkable results; the apparatus is simple, and suitable currents are easily accessible. In this book manipulation is described with sufficient clearness and fulness to serve as an adequate guide.

Dr. Lenher's translation is accurate and smooth, revealing but little of the French idiom. Yet there are not a few infelicities of expression scattered through the book which should have been eliminated, at least in the proof-reading. Such, for example, are "work in the warm," "and as well their densities do not rise regularly," "in contact to," "currents of high value," "different than," "silicon-containing cast irons" (for cast irons containing silicon). A "badger hair-brush" would be an interesting specimen. "Graphite from the South" would be misunderstood did not "Australia" follow in a parenthesis, and "Graphite from Greenville" needs further definition. "Parallelipipedon" is repeatedly used where *block* would be better. Misprints are too frequent. We have Daubreé half a dozen times and also Daubree; Frémey; Züptner for von Jüptner. Figures and names are occasionally wrong. We think the translator would have been justified in revising the formula Gl_4C_3 , calculated from 13.8 as the atomic weight of glucinum, and using Gl_2C , especially as the author uses the correct atomic weight and formulae later in the book. Unfortunately, the book is hampered by the lack of an index, though there is quite a full table of contents in the opening pages.

JAS. LEWIS HOWE.

DIE WISSENSCHAFT. SAMMLUNG NATURWISSENSCHAFTLICHER UND MATHEMATISCHER MONOGRAPHIEN. HEFT I. UNTERSUCHUNGEN ÜBER DIE RADIOAKTIVEN SUBSTANZEN VON MME. S. CURIE. Uebersetzt und mit Litteratur-Ergänzungen versehen von W. KAUFMANN. Braunschweig; Druck und Verlag von Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn. 8vo. 1904. viii + 132 pp. Price, 3 marks.

This small volume from the pen of the most eminent worker

in the field of radioactive research must, of necessity, contain much which is valuable and interesting. Separate chapters are devoted to the radioactivity of uranium and thorium, radioactive minerals, the new radioactive substances, the radiations of the new radioactive substances, excited radioactivity and the nature and cause of radioactive phenomena. The author's own investigations are described in some detail and many of the more important results obtained by others are also included. The treatment of the subject of radioactivity is by no means exhaustive, but the book is valuable for reference and the subject is so gracefully presented that it cannot fail to interest the general reader. Like many other foreign books, this one unfortunately contains no index.

B. B. BOLTWOOD.

THE METRIC FALLACY. BY FREDERICK A. HALSEY, AND **THE METRIC FAILURE IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY,** BY SAMUEL S. DALE. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. 1904. 251 pp.

This book is another illustration of the fact that there are two sides to every question, and the question of the adoption of the metric system in this country for ordinary transactions, even for the National government, is no exception to the rule. In this book, or rather in the two books bound in one, Messrs. Halsey and Dale have set forth many of the practical difficulties in the way of meeting the plans advocated by those interested in the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures, and what they offer seems well worthy of the careful consideration of these advocates. It is interesting to note that no mention is found in the books of protest from manufacturers of implements for weighing and measuring, though one may readily imagine that these captains of industry would, in their own interest, be slow to offer such protests, in spite of the difficulties they would incur to meet the great demand for new implements required by the proposed change, if it should be adopted.

While the scientific use of the metric system seems almost imperative, it would furthermore seem that what Messrs. Halsey and Dale have compiled and here presented should have the careful consideration of all who are interested in the change proposed.

McM.