

of the structure of the atom. One of the appendices gives explicit directions for the carrying out of a number of radioactivity experiments. The book is clear and well balanced, and the errors are few and unimportant. It can be warmly recommended to all who wish a good account of the present state of knowledge of the main facts and theories of radioactivity.

HERBERT N. MCCOY.

A TREATISE ON ROCKS, ROCK-WEATHERING AND SOILS. BY GEORGE P. MERRILL. 8vo., 411 pp. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1897; reprinted, 1904. Price, \$4.00.

This book is particularly important and interesting in its treatment of the degeneration of rocks and the formation of soils. The rock-forming minerals and the rocks themselves are discussed somewhat briefly, but with sufficient fullness to form a satisfactory introduction to the main topic. Rock-weathering, in its chemical and physical aspects, is very carefully treated, while the final products—the soils—are discussed in respect to their origin, chemical composition, and physical condition. The work is not merely one of compilation, for the author has frequently drawn conclusions from the results of his own analyses of material collected by himself.

H. L. WELLS.

ANNUAIRE POUR L'AN 1905. Published by the Bureau of Longitudes. Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1904. 16 mo. 669 + 114 pp. Price, 1fr. 50c.

Beginning with the volume preceding this, the plan was adopted of publishing each alternate year in the annuaire, in addition to the usual almanac, physico-chemical data and geographic-statistical information. The annuaire before us is one of the off-year type, from the chemist's standpoint, and contains, therefore, nothing of especial interest to chemists.

J. W. R.

THE EXAMINATION OF WATERS AND WATER SUPPLIES. BY J. C. THRESH. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 460 pp. Price, \$4.00.

Directly upon opening the book the reader notes the stress laid upon the importance of what in this country we call the "sanitary survey." Intelligent comment upon this feature of water examination is very timely, considering how many people still believe that the data, whereupon to judge of the character of a water, are to be secured in the laboratory alone.

To illustrate the statements in the text, numerous instances are given of actual cases of pollution, and the examples taken