

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

from the author's professional experience give the book much practical value.

That portion devoted to chemical examination does not contain new material, and some of the methods would not find favor here. For instance "Turbidity" and "color" are indifferently treated, but that defect is accounted for by the fact that those items are by no means so important in England as they are in America. Under the ammonia process the author uses but 250 cc. of water for distillation, a volume not commonly employed. The bacteriological side of water examination is well discussed, and many pages given to what may be termed an index of fecal pollution.

The chapter on microscopical examination is illustrated by eighteen full-page plates.

The book is certainly valuable and will be of service to all interested in water supply.

W. P. MASON.

THE SUPPRESSION OF TUBERCULOSIS, TOGETHER WITH OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING PHTHISIOGENESIS IN MAN AND ANIMALS, AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE HYGIENE OF COW STABLES AND THE PRODUCTION OF MILK FOR INFANT FEEDING, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TUBERCULOSIS. By PROF. E. VON BEHRING, University of Marburg. Authorized translation by CHARLES BOLDUAN, M.D. New York: John Wiley & Sons. London: Chapman & Hall, Limited. 1904. 12mo. v + 85 pp. Price, cloth, \$1.00.

THIS is a translation into English of several selected articles by von Behring. The principal one is the noted lecture delivered by von Behring in Cassel in 1903. The articles in the German tongue are quite difficult of translation by English-speaking persons and even some Germans speak of the difficulty of getting at the gist of these very articles. Therefore, Dr. Bolduan is to be congratulated on having succeeded in making such an admirable, clear and concise translation of von Behring's views on this most important of diseases—the great White Plague. The articles are of the utmost value to every one in that they clearly give, from a high authority, scientific proofs of the transmission and methods for the suppression of the disease.

J. M.

#### CORRECTION.

In the review of the "Recent Development of Physical Science," by William Cecil Dampier Whetham, on page 168 of the February issue, the name of the reviewer, Edward W. Morley, was accidentally omitted.