

Outline of Bacteriology (Technical and Agricultural). BY DAVID ELLIS. Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. pp. xii, 262. Price, \$2.50.

Dr. Ellis, of the Glasgow Technical College, has attempted to write "an introduction to bacteriology in all its branches, though more attention has been bestowed on that aspect of the subject which is of most interest to students of technical and agricultural bacteriology." The plan of his book is an excellent one. There is great need for text-books of bacteriology which shall develop the broader biological facts of the science, without undue emphasis on the details of its application to medicine. It requires, however, an unusual grasp of the subject, a strong sense of proportion, and some literary skill to produce a book of this type. Fischer in the *Vorlesungen über Bakterien* has succeeded in doing it: but his admirable volume stands practically alone. The present author gives less of a philosophical treatment of fundamental questions, than a series of more or less independent facts such as make up the bulk of so many books on bacteriology and hygiene. For example in the chapter on sterilization, thirty-three different chemical disinfectants are discussed in detail, including such substances as nitrogen dioxide, butyric acid, camphor and coffee infusion. Dr. Ellis gives his well known views about motility and spore formation among the cocci as established facts, without pointing out that they are still in the controversial stage. Here and there are statements of a somewhat superficial character which are likely to prove misleading. The industrial and agricultural chapters, modeled pretty closely after Lafar, are freest from such defects, and the medical and sanitary sections are most prone to them. Thus it is stated that the same species of bacillus causes tuberculosis in man and in cattle (p. 120), and that infection in tuberculosis takes place almost exclusively through the air (121). The colon bacillus is introduced as follows: "There is great similarity between *B. typhosus* and *Bacillus coli communis*, an organism which is very common in sewage, and which is strongly suspected of being the cause of epidemic diarrhoea, though positive proof is still wanting." Altogether the book is not a sufficiently scholarly work to form a very valuable contribution to the subject. C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

ABDERHALDEN, E.: *Handbuch der biochemischen Arbeitsmethoden*. 11 Bd. 2 Hälfte. Wien: Urban & Schwarzenberg. 24 M.

ALLEN, A. H. *Commercial Organic Analysis*. Fourth edition, Volume I, edited by H. Leffmann and W. A. Davis. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co. \$5.00.

ALTMAYER, V.: *Ueber das Methangleichgewicht, die Beziehungen zwischen Nickel und Wasserstoff und einige Methansynthesen mit Calciumhydrür*. München: R. Oldenbourg.

BASKERVILLE, C.: *General Inorganic Chemistry*. Boston: Heath. \$1.50.