

NEW BOOKS.

Modern Science Reader with special reference to **Chemistry**. Edited by ROBERT MONTGOMERY BIRD, Ph.D., Collegiate Professor of Chemistry in the University of Virginia, 323 + viii pages. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911.

"This book provides a partial course of reading in Chemistry for college men and general readers, and indicates further matter of an interesting and instructive nature. * * * It is our experience with college men that parallel reading, more than any other influence, conduces to interest in textbook matter, *especially in first-year courses in science*. It broadens the student's views, enlivens the subject and shows its bearing upon the work and problems of life. * * * We have had in mind, also, persons who are seeking knowledge without the aid of a teacher. Definit information for reading and home study is given. * * * We have endeavored, particularly, to choose articles which are suggestive * * * and will broaden the reader's outlook on science."

These extracts from the preface will indicate the scope of the book. It contains 28 articles, beginning with Sir William Crookes' "Romance of the Diamond," from a recent *North American Review*, and ending with Remsen's "Unsolved Problems of Chemistry," from *McClure's*. Among other topics are explosives, artificial silk, steel rails and alloy steels, coal, coal-tar, the yeast cell, radioactivity, and electrons. Sir Andrew Noble, John A. Mathews, Vivian B. Lewes, J. W. Richards, Kopp, Madame Curie, and Sir Oliver Lodge are among the authors quoted.

Many teachers will find in this book interesting collateral readings for their students and it is heartily to be recommended.

JAS. LEWIS HOWE.

Handbuch der Mineral-Chemie. EDITED BY C. DOELTER AND OTHERS. Bogen, 11-20. Price, M. 6.50. CONTENTS.—The carbonates of sodium concluded. The carbonates of sodium and the alkaline earths by Wegscheider. Potassium and ammonium carbonate by Wegscheider. Magnesium carbonate by Leitmeier. Genesis and occurrence of magnesite by Redlich. Uses of magnesite by Redlich. The hydrates of magnesium carbonate by Leitmeier and d'Achiardi. Calcium carbonate by Leitmeier and analytical methods by Dittrich.

The peculiar arrangement of this book according to which all the matter bearing on one topic is not given in the same place is inconvenient, to say the least, and will hardly meet with approval from most readers. It was owing to this unfortunate classification that the writer made an unwarranted criticism of the first instalment of this work, which he is here glad to correct. The constants of calcium carbonate, the omission of which was criticized, are given in detail in the second instalment. The information in Bogen 11-20 seems to be very complete and very recent work is included.

E. T. ALLEN.