

## NEW BOOKS

**Pierre Curie.** By MARIE CURIE. Translated by Charlotte and Vernon Kellogg (with an introduction by Mrs. William Brown Meloney, and autobiographical notes by Marie Curie). The Macmillan Company, New York, 1923. 242 pp. Illustrated. 21.5 × 14 cm. Price \$2.25.

An English translation of Mme. Curie's life of Pierre Curie is especially *à propos* just at the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the discovery of radium. Chemists and all lovers of science will admire Mme. Curie's simple and beautiful narrative of the hardships under which their joint work was carried to completion. Seldom if ever has a discovery leaped to such immediate appreciation of its importance, and to such rapid realization of its far-reaching theoretical, and practical consequences in so many different directions. This quick recognition brought swiftly the "burdens of celebrity" to Pierre Curie, which weighed heavily on his none too rugged constitution. But in spite of the plaudits of the world, the laboratory facilities remained inadequate, promotions came tardily and all but too late, merited honors were withheld until no longer wanted. All these hardships are recounted by Mme. Curie in no spirit of complaint, but rather in the hope that their narration will help to smooth the paths of other scientists.

Mme. Curie has not only earned the gratitude of her colleagues in science by giving them a lasting picture of Pierre Curie and his creative genius, but she has also made a distinct contribution to biographical literature. The charm of her style is characterized by a simple candor coupled with a broad philosophic point of view which furnishes a gratifying insight into her personality full of strength, intelligence, and initiative ability. The autobiographical notes which were appended at the request of her friends serve to fill in the picture of her life from girlhood in Poland down through her visit to the United States in 1921. An introduction by Mrs. Meloney gives a very characteristic picture of Mme. Curie's aversion to publicity, and of many other qualities that mark her superiority. The crowning point of her American tour was the presentation to her, by the late President Harding, of the gram of radium donated by the women of America. The conception and effective completion of this splendid tribute were due to the initiative of Mrs. Meloney.

Any review of this book would be incomplete that failed to pay a tribute to the skill of the translators in reproducing so elegantly and so exactly both the substance and spirit of this remarkable biography.

S. C. LIND

**The Phase Rule and its Applications.** By ALEXANDER FINDLAY, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc., Professor of Chemistry, University of Aberdeen. Textbooks on Physical Chemistry, edited by Sir William Ramsay and F. G. Donnan. Longmans, Green and Company, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York; 39 Paternoster Row, London, E. C. 4;

Toronto; Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; 1923. Fifth edition. xvi + 298 pp. 158 figs. 22 × 14 cm. Price \$3.50 net.

The new edition of this useful textbook has been thoroughly revised and considerably enlarged. The nature of these changes is best seen by a quotation from the author's preface:

"The increasing attention which has been paid in recent years to heterogeneous equilibria and the re-investigation of some of the important problems connected therewith, have necessitated a complete revision and re-writing of certain sections and the addition of much new matter. The sections on sulphur and phosphorus, for example, have been re-written, the attention being directed more especially to the pseudo-binary nature of these systems. The section on iron-carbon alloys, also, has been revised in the light of recent work and, as far as space would permit, the most important work on four-component systems and the salts of the Stassfurt deposits has been discussed. The opportunity has also been taken of explaining more fully the graphical methods of representation of multi-component systems, and more especially the graphical methods suggested by Jänecke which are now very widely employed. The importance of the Phase Rule in the study of mineralogical problems has been emphasized by a discussion, more especially, of the conditions of formation of the calcium aluminium silicates."

ARTHUR B. LAMB

**Textile Chemistry, an Introduction to the Chemistry of the Cotton Industry.** By F. J. COOPER, of the Technical College, Blackburn. E. P. Dutton and Company, 681 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1923. ix + 235 pp. 240 figs. 22.5 × 15 cm. Price \$5.00.

Were it possible, this book would realize the millennium of the harassed undergraduate, for into 235 pages are crowded elementary inorganic and organic chemistry, qualitative and quantitative analysis, textile chemistry and laboratory instructions. It is novel in treatment and abounds in sketches of apparatus for semi-quantitative demonstrations or rough analysis. Though not free from error it should be of interest and practical value to the mill operative who lacks opportunity for systematic chemical instruction.

H. C. CHAPIN