

book contains twenty-eight papers, of which twenty-one are in English, four in German and three in French. Eleven of the papers are by British authors.

The first group of papers includes an important account of the characteristics of fine oxide powders (down to below 100 Å) and a 'new look' at kaolinitic clays which challenges X-ray and differential thermal analyses and proposes an ingenious, simple alternative method of estimating the nature and proportion of clay mineral in a kaolinitic clay. The second group covers process problems: one paper deals with the principles of comminution and another with compaction of powders. A study of torsional hysteresis in plastic clay throws new light on 'plasticity'.

The third group, covering behaviour during the firing process, presents a number of papers on sintering, ranging from the dynamic properties of grain boundaries to the effect of atmosphere. The final group covers structures and properties, and ends with a short survey of glass-ceramics. Another paper deals with solid solutions of certain oxides which can be used as solid-state electrolytes.

While the general reader must not expect to get from this book a coherent picture of ceramic science and technology, he will be provided with a wide sample of some of the problems, and at the same time the specialist will find a good deal of useful material here. The book is well produced and well documented, and one looks forward to the steady progress of this new series. N. F. ASTBURY

#### Annual Survey of Organometallic Chemistry

Vol. 1. Covering the Year 1964. By Dr. Dietmar Seyferth and Dr. R. Bruce King. Pp. viii + 330. (Amsterdam, London and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company, Ltd., 1965.) 110s.

THE annual review type of literature is one of the most useful forms of secondary research source: it suffers from a disadvantage in that the work reported is disjointed and undigested, but has the great advantage that this is red-hot from the journals. Even the lack of digestion is sometimes an advantage; it does not impose a point of view and chance scraps of information or chance juxtapositions can be very evocative of new ideas.

The primary literature in the rapidly growing field of organometallic chemistry can be very confusing, and an annual survey such as this performs a real service. In order to systematize the subject, it is divided according to the periodic table, but with a separation of main group metals from transition metals. The form of presentation is similar to the staccato one familiar to readers of the *Annual Reports of the Chemical Society*, but coverage is far more extensive and there is a welcome abundance of formulae. The aim has been to pick significant contributions, and although this is clearly a subjective matter, the authors appear to have performed their herculean task with skill and industry.

Whether for browsing by inorganic or organic chemists who are just interested in a general way, or as an entry into the literature for research students, this book, and no doubt its successors, will be worth having on the book-shelf. A. J. BIRCH

#### Introducing the Insect

By Prof. F. A. Urquhart. Pp. x + 258. (London: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1965.) 30s. net.

IT is difficult to know what to say in fair comment on *Introducing the Insect*. It opens with the words: "This book is designed for the beginner . . .", and on this basis it should be judged. It certainly qualifies in simplicity, clarity and directness. The style is conversational, without being jocular, slangy or journalistic. The text is clearly arranged, broken into short sections with headings in bold type, and no time is wasted by either the writer or the reader in getting to the point. There are

keys to orders and to families, and plenty of simple, clear drawings.

The author is a professional entomologist of international standing, known for his detailed studies of the Monarch butterfly. Entomologically, therefore, the book is sound, and much of the information comes from the author's own experience. In fact what the book says is admirable; it is what it omits that causes misgiving.

The keys provide an example of this. Pages 34-37 discuss how to use a key, and as an example a simple key is constructed to four types of screws and nails. "You can see how easy it is to use identification keys, and how helpful they are." This works satisfactorily so long as you know that there are only four items, and that your choice must be one of these, but how far would anyone get who took such a little key into an ironmonger's shop? All the keys in the book suffer in like manner. An incomplete key to orders, omitting those that are 'obscure', is probably justified, and is helped out by the generally excellent little drawings. But is the reader really helped by: "17. Antennae usually thread-like or feebly clubbed; usually found feeding on leaves of plants. *Leaf-eating Beetles*" (p. 155)?

The function of any book of instruction is not only to give the reader information, but also, and equally important, to leave him clearly aware of the limits of his knowledge. The most serious criticism of the present book is that it does not do so; that, indeed, the formal arrangements of keys and text gives a misleading impression of near-completeness. This book does not compare in quality with the books of the "Wayside and Woodland" series by the same publisher, which are listed on the back of its book-jacket. HAROLD OLDROYD

#### The Coccidian Parasites (Protozoa, Sporozoa) of Rodents

By Norman D. Levine and Virginia Ivens. (Illinois Biological Monographs, No. 33.) Pp. 365 (48 plates). (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1965.) 8.50 dollars.

THIS book should certainly be in the library of every parasitological department. Its authors are well known throughout the world for their research on, and wide experience of, the coccidian parasites, not only of rodents, but also of birds and other hosts as well. Well and clearly written, and illustrated by copious figures assembled in forty-eight plates which are either photographs or very clear line drawings and two text-figures, all of which together show clearly the diagnostic features of the species of coccidia described, the book considers and defines 176 species of the genus *Eimeria*, nine species of the genus *Isospora*, one species each of the genera *Caryospora*, *Dorisiella*, *Wenyonella klossia* and *Tyzzeria*, two species of the genus *Cryptosporidium* and three of the genus *Klossiella*. The characteristics of the species of these genera found in rodents are summarized in Tables 1-29. Table 31 gives the characteristics of the species of the genus *Eimeria*, and Table 32 summarizes the results of cross-infection experiments carried out with species of *Eimeria* found in rodents. The extensive list of references to the literature adds greatly to the value of the book, which is beautifully produced and is printed on glossy paper throughout, the whole production reaching the high standard we have learned to expect from these publishers. Every parasitologist will agree that the authors have performed a great service by writing this book. G. LAPAGE

#### Brave New Victuals

An Inquiry Into Modern Food Production. By Elspeth Huxley. Pp. 168. (London: Chatto and Windus, Ltd., 1965.) 21s.

MRS. HUXLEY'S new book deals in the usual old victuals. Although it is sub-titled *An Inquiry Into Modern Food Production*, it covers everything from factory farming to fall-out, and takes in hormones,