intensely academic character; and an adherence to one or another depends upon the bent of one's philosophic allegiance and temper.

JOSEPH JASTROW

The Value of Pure Water. By GEORGE C. WHIPPLE. New York: John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 84. Price, $1.00.

This small publication, which contains much material of both interest and value, is practically a reprint of portions of three earlier papers by the author. One from 'Biological Studies by the Pupils of William Thompson Sedgwick,' another from 'The Pollution of Streams and the Natural Agencies of Purification' and a third on 'The Disadvantages of Hard Water.'

Among the qualities of a public supply which affect the consumer 'temperature' is included. This is well, for that item receives far too little attention from those who forget that the great bulk of the people can not afford the luxury of ice.

As showing the advantages of filtration, a comparison between the typhoid rates in Albany and Troy is striking, but it should be noted that Troy never drew Hudson River water from below the mouth of the polluted Mohawk, and now takes no river water at all. In showing the pecuniary loss to a community due to water-borne typhoid, the author places the 'residual typhoid,' or number of yearly deaths not traceable to water, at a probable value of 20 per 100,000. He adds, however, that this value will doubtless diminish in the future because of a gradual decrease in the number of foci of infection. A good table is given showing the increase in cost to the laundry interests resulting from the use of hard water, and a formula is added whereby may be calculated the depreciation of the money value of a water for soap users because of hardness.

Additional formulæ are given which severally state the depreciation due to 'sanitary quality' to 'temperature' and to 'physical characteristics,' under which latter head are included 'turbidity,' 'color' and 'odor.' Odor is again divided into that due to 'organisms,' to 'decomposition' and to 'vegetable odors.'

This is all well enough, but the resulting complexity of formulæ is somewhat more than the average water purveyor might wish for.

"Habit and association have much to do with a person's views as to the attractiveness of water" is a most true statement, and upon it depends the success with which many an indifferent supply is now offered to the public.

The book is well worth its price and should be found in every water library.

W. P. MASON

Alcohol—The Sanction for Its Use Scientifically Established and Popularly Expounded by a Physiologist. Translated from the German of Dr. J. STARKE. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907.

This book, written in defense of the use of alcohol, appears at a time when there is a world-wide movement in favor of a stricter temperance. By alcohol the author means the substance as contained in the purer beverages, not such concoctions as absinth which are compared to alcoholic solutions of opium.

The moderate drinker who experiences 'internal mental exaltation with perfectly clear consciousness' has no poisoning of the brain provided it is only occasionally that he gets 'elevated.' The book claims that a medium amount of alcohol is favorable to the performance of muscular work, and a medium allowance is put at 560 c.c. of absolute alcohol or two and three quarter pints of brandy for a man weighing 140 pounds. The author states that caffein constricts the cutaneous blood vessels and enlarges those of the interior, and since alcohol behaves in the opposite manner, therefore rum should be taken in tea and a liqueur after coffee.

While this volume will scarcely meet with unanimous approval, it might still be recommended as an antidote to the attenuated nonsense of the 'scientific temperance' of the school books.

GRAHAM LUSK

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The American Museum Journal for April contains illustrated accounts of the 'Habitat