

in general simply described, in some cases difficult technique is passed over with a few words of description, so meager as to make it almost impossible for the student to follow them without very close supervision on the part of the instructor. For example, it is doubtful whether a student could ever obtain a pure culture of yeasts by the method described without having an instructor at hand to show him every detailed step. The numerous experiments also imply the possession on the part of the instructor of a large amount of material commonly not at hand in a bacteriological laboratory, especially in the way of cultures of various organisms, and no direction is given as to how these may be obtained.

In a little book of this kind not all laboratory methods can be included, and some omission may be well excused. Some of the omissions are a little unfortunate. For example, in describing the detection of nitrites, the method that is commonly used, of inoculating bacteria into nitrate broth is not given at all, the only method given depending upon synthetic media. The common use of nitrate broth, included in the standard methods, should certainly have been among the methods given in this little manual. On the whole, the manual is useful, and can be recommended as an up-to-date reference book of laboratory methods.

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*The Elements of Psychology.* By DAVID R. MAJOR. Revised Edition. Columbus, R. G. Adams & Co. 1914. Pp. 413.

Much difficulty has been experienced in recent years in preparing a satisfactory text for introductory college courses in psychology. Possibly the difficulty arises from the fact that the customary elementary course in psychology—unlike that in other sciences—aims less to initiate the student into the use of a set of special methods and a body of knowledge obtained by their application, than to interpret and rationalize what everyone is more or less acquainted with from common experience.

Evidently more tact and literary skill are required to treat what is already familiar in a profitable way, than to launch out into what is new to the student. However this may be, there have certainly been a large number of attempts to meet the felt need for an elementary text, and few of the attempts have given much satisfaction. The present book is another experiment in this direction, and appears likely to prove unusually successful. If it makes no great claim to originality of teaching, and has no special axe to grind, and if it lacks somewhat in incisiveness, these are defects which the student can readily overlook in view of its well-sustained effort to meet him on his own ground. Granted that the introductory course is to be kept within its traditional bounds, this text should make a very satisfactory guide.

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#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

*Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* for December contains the following articles: "The Free and Forced Vibrations of a Suspended Magnet" (concluded), H. F. Reid; "Magnetic Declinations and Chart Corrections obtained by the *Carnegie* from Bahia, Brazil, to St. Helena, May 20 to June 22, 1913," L. A. Bauer and W. J. Peters; "On Certain Matters relating to the Theory of Atmospheric Electric Measurements," W. F. G. Swann; "Investigation of Certain Causes Responsible for Uncertainty in the Measurement of Atmospheric Conductivity by the Gerdien Conductivity Apparatus," C. W. Hewlett; "Magnetic Declinations and Chart Corrections obtained by the *Carnegie* from Hammerfest, Norway, to Reykjavik, Iceland, and thence to Brooklyn, New York, July to October, 1914," L. A. Bauer and J. P. Ault; Letters to Editor: "Principal Magnetic Storms recorded at the Cheltenham Magnetic Observatory, July–September, 1914," O. H. Tittmann; "Umbau an dem Schulze'schen D-Variometer des Observatoriums in Tsingtau," B. Meyer-mann.