"school" and accordingly—after discussion with Drs. A. L. Kroeber and Paul Radin, two other one-time students of Boas—I feel compelled to register my vehement, uncompromising dissent.

To take only two predecessors, E. B. Tylor emphatically did not indulge in wild guesses nor did he collect anthropological facts as a philatelist collects stamps; and Lewis H. Morgan, his misconceptions to the contrary notwithstanding, created absolutely new lines of fruitful inquiry in which the "romantic lover of primitive things" would be very unhappy indeed.

As for contemporaries, Boas highly esteemed such men as Karl von den Steinen, Eduard Hahn, Eduard Seler; and irrespective of divergences of opinion he recognized the ability of Daniel G. Brinton and Wm. H. Holmes. The notion that he was a culture hero of the type featured by aboriginal folklore, a bringer of light out of total darkness, was intensely distasteful to him; he explicitly repudiated it in a letter to me (December 30, 1937). I have tried elsewhere to sketch Boas's unique services to science. They were sufficiently great not to require the belittlement of others, which must inevitably evoke legitimate resentment, ruffling national no less than personal sensibilities. *De mortuis nil nisi verum.*

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

Elementary Physical Chemistry. By MERLE RANDALL and LEONA ESTHER YOUNG. xiv + 455 pp. Berkeley, Calif.: Randall and Sons. 1942. $4.50.

THE chief novelty of this text is the unusual arrangement of subject-matter. Early chapters deal with vaporization, distillation, solubility product, dissociation of electrolytes, hydrolysis and indicators. Gases are first discussed in detail in Chapter XIII; and as a matter of fact, from this point on the remaining material is presented in a more orthodox sequence. The purpose is ". . . to utilize the experiments performed by students in the elementary organic and quantitative laboratories as the basis of establishing the fundamental principles of modern thinking in this field."

The authorship guarantees a presentation with a strong thermodynamic bias, though this does not extend to a detailed discussion of the laws of thermodynamics. However, the language is the language of thermodynamics. The selection of material likewise betrays a preoccupation with thermodynamics or, more particularly, with the common equilibrium systems. Thus, such topics as atomic and molecular structure, crystal structure, colloidal systems and reaction mechanism receive only a legal minimum of attention.

Providing the remainder of the curriculum is closely attuned, this might be a very useful text. Helpful adjuncts are the numerous problems, tables and figures.

Experimental Physical Chemistry. By W. G. PALMER. xii + 321 pp. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. 1941. $2.75.

THIS laboratory manual follows accepted lines for the most part. Chapters are devoted to densities of gases and vapors, crystallization and the properties of crystals, solutions and solubility, dilute solutions, thermochemistry, ionization, velocity of chemical reaction, surface chemistry. Optical instruments and their uses are not discussed.

Each experiment is preceded by a brief theoretical introduction. Detailed procedures are given, and there is usually a completely worked example. A point is made of the simplicity of the apparatus required. A number of the experiments are of a qualitative nature.

The text should be useful in an elementary course in physical chemistry, though it is not clearly superior to other texts on the market.

ROBERT N. PEASE

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

The Quadri-Service Manual of Organic Chemistry. By EDWARD DEGERING. 221 pp. Houghton Mifflin Company. 1942. $2.50.

THE author has introduced a novel presentation of organic laboratory material and the scope of experiments included shows a definite shift from the traditional type of organic laboratory manual. The experiments are designed to cover the aliphatic and aromatic series and the planning is such that experiments may be chosen from both series for a one-semester course primarily for premedical students. The introduction of organic experiments on a semimicro basis is a valuable contribution and will no doubt impress upon the student the importance of maintaining his laboratory techniques throughout his organic chemistry training. Objective type tests are included throughout the manual primarily as a method of review. However, the value of these tests for the beginning organic chemistry student is a debatable question. The reviewer feels that the objective type tests in organic chemistry can be a teaching aid only after the completion of the elementary course in or-

ganic chemistry, inasmuch as this type of test trains the student only in his ability to recognize material once learned, while his training in being able to recall and apply his knowledge is neglected. Nevertheless, this organic laboratory manual demands the attention of every serious-minded teacher of organic chemistry.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

DIGEST OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

POSTPONEMENT of the New York meeting, scheduled to have been held during the week of December 28, 1942, prevented the holding of the regular business sessions of the Executive Committee and of the Council at that time. Acting under a provision of the Constitution and By-Laws that "the Executive Committee shall have full power to act for the Council when the Council is not in session," the Executive Committee held a special meeting in Washington, D. C., on January 17, 1943, with eight of the ten members present, as follows: Drs. Livingston (chairman), Adams, Barker, Caldwell, Cannon, Compton, Moulton and Wrather.

The following actions were taken, all of which were by unanimous vote:

1. It was voted (a) that all work of the association, except the holding of general meetings, be continued until the holding of meetings is resumed, presumably after the close of the war; (b) that new officers of the association be elected by mail ballot of the council, a procedure that is valid under the constitution and by-laws of the association; (c) that joint local meetings with affiliated academies of science and joint local meetings of sections and affiliated societies be held when feasible; (d) that the special committees of the association be continued under the usual terms of tenure, and (e) that arrangements be made, if possible, for broadcasting addresses of retiring presidents.

2. In accordance with 1(b), it was voted that the council elect by mail ballot the president of the association for 1943, three members for the executive committee, two elected members of the council, and the vice-presidents for sections. (Report of the results of the balloting by the council, now in progress, will be published in SCIENCE.)

3. The following were elected a committee for the subsection on dentistry: Thomas J. Hill, chairman, 2085 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio; Paul C. Kitchin, secretary, Ohio State University; and B. Holly Broadbent, 2879 Fontenay Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

4. Glenn L. Jenkins, Purdue University, was elected chairman of the subsection on pharmacy for a three-year term, expiring at the end of 1945.

5. President Compton appointed R. G. Hoskins, Harvard University, and Henry Gilman, Iowa State University, as members of the grants committee, to represent medicine and chemistry, respectively, for terms ending at the close of the year 1946.

6. On recommendation of the finance committee, Charles S. Baker, Washington, D. C., was elected a member of the finance committee to succeed himself, for a four-year term ending at the close of the year 1946.

7. J. McKeen Cattell was nominated to succeed himself as a representative on the board of trustees of Science Service for a three-year term ending in April, 1946.

8. The Arkansas Academy of Science was accepted as an affiliated state academy and the American Association of Scientific Workers was accepted as an affiliated society.

9. The reports of the auditors (certified public accountants) of the accounts of the treasurer and of the permanent secretary for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1942, were accepted.

10. The executive committee approved the recommendation of the permanent secretary that in making arrangements for future meetings of the association the local committees in the communities in which meetings are to be held be charged with the responsibility of arranging for entertainment and excursions and providing clerical and other services, as heretofore, but be relieved from the onerous and disagreeable task of collecting funds for printing the general program and meeting other expenses.

11. The policy, in general, was adopted that hereafter grants for research shall be given only to applicants who have not previously received two grants from the association or from other sources in support of the research for which the application is made.

12. In carrying out certain terms of the agreement between the association and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell and Mrs. Josephine Owen Cattell, in so far as it concerns *The Scientific Monthly,* the permanent secretary was authorized and directed to accept the offer of Dr. and Mrs. Cattell and to pay $9,499.59 in lieu of the annuity provided in the agreement, and Mr. Ware Cattell was elected as editor for a four-year term beginning January 1, 1943. The permanent secretary was also directed to publish *The Scientific*