Bloch); in mineral metabolism (David M. Greenberg); in iodine metabolism and thyroid function (I. L. Chaikoff and A. Taurog); and in general medicine (Joseph G. Hamilton).

Therapeutic applications of radioisotopes are described in two papers by Byron E. Hall (radiophosphorus) and by Saul Hertz (radioactive iodine). Health hazards in the use of radioisotopes are discussed by William F. Bale, primarily from the standpoint of the physicist, and by James J. Nickson from the standpoint of the physician. The book ends with thought-provoking essays by Harold C. Urey, on international aspects of atomic energy, and by Farrington Daniels, on the development and applications of atomic energy.

The book in general is clearly written. Although it was lithoprinted in order to speed production, it is quite legible. Errors are few, and these are concisely listed on a single sheet. The illustrations include photographs of all the contributors and the chairmen of the various sessions.

Although various other works on isotopes in biology have been and are appearing, the authoritative nature of most of the contributions to this book make it a most useful addition to the library of the "isotopic" biologist, particularly if he is interested in tracers.

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Chymia: annual studies in the history of chemistry. (Edgar F. Smith Memorial Collection: Univ. Pennsylvania, Vol. I.) Tenney L. Davis. (Ed.) Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1948. Pp. xiv + 190. (Illustrated.) $3.50.

Situated at the University of Pennsylvania is one of the most important collections of rare books, prints, and manuscripts relating to the history of chemistry to be found anywhere in the United States. This collection was originally the private library of the late Edgar Fahs Smith, provost and historian of chemistry at the University. After his death in 1928, Mrs. Smith presented the library to the University, endowing it so that it might grow and flourish. This it has done, as several important collections have since been added to it, thereby enriching its resources.

With the recent publication of *Chymia*, one of Dr. Smith's dreams is brought to fruition, for he had wanted to establish a journal devoted to the history of the science with which his name was so long identified. As stated in the Introduction by Eva V. Armstrong, curator of the Smith Collection, "*Chymia* is intended to promote international scholarship in the history of chemistry, to bring a glimpse of the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection to those who would drop in for a visit some afternoon if it should be physically convenient to do so, and to provide a meeting ground for those who find pleasure in studies such as it reports." In spirit and in format this first volume of 13 articles admirably embodies the purposes expressed above.

The book opens appropriately enough with the last paper written by the late C. A. Browne (1870–1947), himself a distinguished historian of chemistry, whose library has very recently been added to the Collection. Browne's paper, "Recently acquired information concerning Fredrick Accum, 1769–1838," is a subject on which he had previously written. Claude K. Deischer follows with a memorial tribute to Dr. Browne and concludes with a bibliography of his writings on the history of chemistry—the list of 148 published and 17 unpublished papers speaks for itself. F. Sherwood Taylor transcribes and discusses an English alchemical poem, and Henry M. Leicester tells how Mendeleev promulgated the Periodic Law. Tenney L. Davis, well-known historian of pyrotechnics and editor of *Chymia*, provides an interesting account of the early use of potassium chlorate in the making of fireworks, and George Urdang, historian of pharmacy, writes learnedly and charmingly on the chemical and pharmaceutical history of calomel.

One of the most important contributions is a paper by Sidney M. Edelstein in which is published a hitherto unknown letter by Joseph Priestley. This appears to settle conclusively the famous controversy as to the parts played by Watt, Cavendish, Lavoisier, and Monge in discovering the chemical constituents of water.

It is evident that with this first volume of *Chymia* a new and important medium for the publication of studies in the history of chemistry and related sciences has appeared. May succeeding volumes continue on the high plane of scholarship and readability set by this first offering.

MORRIS C. LEIKIND

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scientific Book Register

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BREMEKAMP, C. E. B. *Notes on the Acanthaceae of Java.* (Nederl. Akad. Wet., Verh. (Tweede Sectie), Dl. XLV, No. 2.) Amsterdam: N. V. Noord-Hollandsche Uitgevers Maatschappij, 1948. Pp. 78.

GODDARD, ROBERT H. (GODDARD, ESTHER C., and PENDRAY, G. EDWARD, Eds.). *Rocket development: liquid-fuel research 1929–1941.* New York: Prentice-Hall, 1948. Pp. xx + 291. (Illustrated.) $6.50.

JOHNSTON, H. F., *et al.* *Magnetic results from Huancayo Observatory, Peru, 1922–1935* and *Magnetic results from Huancayo Observatory, Peru, 1936–1944.* (Vols. X-A and X-B, respectively.) Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution, 1948. Vol. X-A: Pp. vi + 609. (Illustrated.) $3.25, paper; $3.75, cloth; Vol. X-B: Pp. v + 385. $2.00, paper; $2.50, cloth.

SNYDER, H. R. (Ed.-in-Chief.) *Organic syntheses.* (Vol. 28.) New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1948. Pp. vi + 121. (Illustrated.) $2.50.