Landscape as developed by the processes of normal erosion. (2nd ed.) C. A. Cotton. New York: John Wiley, 1949. Pp. 509. (Illustrated.) $10.00.

This is the second edition, revised and much enlarged, of a notable book first published in 1941. Numerous new illustrations have been added, including aerial photographs. It is the initial book of a trilogy; the others are *Climatic accidents in landscape-making* (1942) and *Volcanoes as landscape forms* (1944). The author has kept well in mind the interests of general readers as well as of students who need an authoritative, interesting elementary textbook in the discussed phases of geomorphology. The major topics comprise the mass movement of waste, land forms produced by the erosion and deposition of running water, structural controls, landscape cycles, and features of limestone terrains.

ARTHUR BEVAN

Illinois Geological Survey

Textbook of virology: For students and practitioners of medicine. A. J. Rhodes and C. E. van Rooyen. New York: Thomas Nelson, 1949. Pp. ix + 312. (Illustrated.) $5.00.

The title of this book suggests completeness of coverage of a scientific discipline. In this respect the book is disappointing. In their preface, however, the authors state their aim to be a succinct presentation of the essential features of virus and rickettsial diseases of man for medical students. As such, it has merit.

Brief chapters summarizing the essential physical, chemical and biological properties of viruses introduce the text. Supplemented with generalizations on epidemiology and immunity, standard factual material is presented in a didactic and admittedly dogmatic fashion. Technical procedures, such as those of centrifugation, electron microscopy, and egg and tissue cultivation are outlined; rather concise staining directions are included. Good reproductions of diagrams and electron micrographs serve as visual aids to the exposition.

The various disease states of man are presented in an inclusive fashion with emphasis on clinical features; the pathologic manifestations, diagnostic aids, prophylactic and therapeutic procedures provide balance. The essential characteristics of the etiologic agents are outlined briefly and specific epidemiologic problems are presented. Throughout, the text assumes the reader's familiarity with the vocabulary of medicine and there is little exposition beyond the special subject. Terseness is a conspicuous feature.

The authors' own prefatory statements justify the suggestion that this brief text represents a condensation of certain features of their larger work on the same subject; the absence of any bibliography in the present book limits its usefulness. As an introduction to human virus and rickettsial diseases, leveled at the specified group, the book may serve a useful purpose in spite of its limitations.

WILLIAM S. PRESTON

University of Michigan

Modern science and its philosophy. Philipp Frank. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1949. Pp. 324. $4.50.

In 1941, Philipp Frank collected ten interesting papers from his own pen, written between 1908 and 1938, and republished them under the title *Between physics and philosophy.* The present work is a republication of these with an addition of other articles, all previously published, of more recent date. Added to this collection is an historical preface, full of personal reminiscences, and tracing the history of the movement of logical empiricism which the author fervently espouses. Although the book as such lacks continuity between its chapters, the growth of the philosopher's own views, which is apparent throughout, provides a bond of unity that welds the work into an attractive whole.

The book's attention can hardly be said to be focused upon the crucial issues of recent science; the work is clearly therapeutic, and the treatment exhibits a consuming desire to show that physics furnishes no nourishment to the advocates of metaphysical systems. The book is thus meant to clear the air for a proper view of perennial philosophic problems without pretending to solve them and, like all of Frank's writings, it is successful in achieving that end.

HENRY MARGENAU

Yale University

Pedigrees of negro families. R. Ruggles Gates. Philadelphia-Toronto: Blakiston, 1949. Pp. vii + 267. (Illustrated.) $5.50.

Inspection of pedigrees has been a predominant method of analysis throughout the short history of human genetics. Because of the expense of population surveys in which all known characters are recorded, the pedigree method of tracing a particular attribute along one or more family lines will probably provide most of our information on inheritance in man for a long time hence. Prof. Gates, in *Pedigrees of negro families,* adds to the record of sample cases for the three major divisions of mankind, the literature in European languages and such collections as the *Treasury of human inheritance* being chiefly concerned with Caucasoids and the two volumes by Komai on Japanese material representing the Mongoloids.

Two hundred eighteen pedigrees on 72 different characters are discussed, of which 35 show the presence of more than one character. The pedigrees were collected by students (of what and where is not specified) usually on some condition in their own families or in a family with which they were intimate. The material is mainly from the United States, but Canada, the West Indies, and British Guiana are represented.

A feature of special interest is the suggestion that skin color in man is determined by three pairs of additive genes. A chart illustrating eight skin color phenotypes is the frontispiece. The proposed correspondence of these phenotypes with the possible genotypes (see especially p. 254) on the three-factor hypothesis is not made explicit, and statistical tests of the hypothesis are not given.