*cretinisme.* Paris, 1873). It consisted of 376 pages, of which eight (283–291) were devoted to a consideration of Chatin's findings and conclusions, which were set forth in his own words.

To these conclusions, the commission objected:

1. Goiter did not exist in the Alps at elevations greater than 1,200 meters above sea level, although Chatin claimed that the air and water contained no iodine.

2. Goiter was prevalent in places separated from others free from goiter by only a short distance. The report cites two villages only a kilometer apart.

3. Goiter was prevalent in the valley of the Oise, where Chatin had found the air and water to be normally iodinated.

4. According to Chatin himself, one-tenth of the women of Trieste, a seaport with iodinated air, had goiter.

There is more in the report that is quite inconsistent with the iodine-lack hypothesis but that is not discussed in this connection. For instance, there was the temporal variation in the exemptions from military service because of goiter in 60 of the departments of France for five successive decennia, 1816–1865. During this period, there were decreases, as in Bas-Rhin, 60, 39, 29, 10, 5 per thousand; increases, as in Haute-Saône, 2, 9, 13, 12, 17 per thousand; and increases and decreases, as in Hautes-Alpes, 62, 142, 123, 87, 101, or Rhone, 24, 38, 50, 28, 24.

However, the commission accepted the prophylactic usefulness of iodine and recommended (p. 347) that iodine preparations of one kind or another be dispensed, free of charge, in school and asylums, to all goitrous children and to all other children whom the physician might consider predisposed to the disease. The report cites several instances of the apparent success of this treatment. Why it did not become general and why France, of all countries, has to this day refused to adopt the compulsory iodinization of salt need not be discussed here. Those interested might do well to read the report by L. Berard and C. Dumet (*Report to first international goiter conference.* Berne, 1927) of the great diminution in the incidence of goiter from 1897 to 1927, without any "systematic preventive treatment with iodine."

Within a year of the publication of the commission's report, A. Chatin was made director of the Ecole Supérieure de Pharmacie and was elected to the Academie des Sciences. A few years later, he was promoted to be Officer of the Legion of Honor. In 1886, he retired from the Ecole Supérieure de Pharmacie and was made honorary director. In 1896, he was the subject of a laudatory biography, under the title "Les Maîtres de Médecine" (unsigned biography in *La Médecine Moderne,* 1896, **7**, suppl. 129). He was later elected president of the Académie des Sciences. He died in 1901 and was the subject of long, eulogistic obituary notices in two important journals. (Guignard, M. L. *J. Pharm. Chim.,* 1901, 6th Series, **13**, 151; and Perrot, E. *Bull. Sci. Pharm.,* 1901, **3**, 23).

It is difficult to find any evidence of disappointment and frustration.

ISIDOR GREENWALD

*Department of Chemistry,*
*New York University College of Medicine*

## *Scientific Book Register*

***The Chemical Elements and Their Compounds,*** 2 vols. N. V. Sidgwick. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1950. 1703 pp. $14.00 the set.

***Theorie und Lösungsmethoden des Mehrteilchenproblems der Wellenmechanik.*** P. Gombás. Basel, Switzerland: Verlag Birkhäuser, 1950. 268 pp. Sw. fr. 24.50 paper; Sw. fr. 29.50 bound.

***Geochemistry.*** Kalervo Rankama and Th. G. Sahama. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1950. 912 pp. $15.00.

***The Yeast Cell, Its Genetics and Cytology.*** Carl C. Lindegren. St. Louis, Mo. Educational Publishers, 1949. 28 chapters. $7.00.

***Classical Mechanics.*** Herbert Goldstein. Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1950. 399 pp. $6.50.

***Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology: Amino Acids and Proteins,*** Vol. XIV. Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., New York: Biological Laboratory, 1950. 217 pp. $7.00.

***The Nature of Physical Reality: A Philosophy of Modern Physics.*** Henry Margenau. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 479 pp. $6.50.

***On Being Human.*** Ashley Montagu. New York: Henry Schuman, 1950. 122 pp. $1.95.

***Die Theoretischen Grundlagen der Analytischen Chemie.*** Gunnar Hägg; German translation by Hans Baumann. Basel, Switzerland: Verlag Birkhäuser, 1950. 197 pp. Sw. fr. 18. paper; Sw. fr. 22. bound.

***Introduction to Theoretical Igneous Petrology.*** Ernest E. Wahlstrom. London: Chapman & Hall; New York: John Wiley, 1950. 365 pp. $6.00.

***Application of the Electronic Valve in Radio Receivers and Amplifiers,*** Book IV. B. G. Dammers *et al;* trans. by S. H. Alexander. Eindhoven, Netherlands: Philips Technical Library; New York: Elsevier, 1950. 416 pp.

***Advanced Atlas of Modern Geography.*** John Bartholomew. London W.C.2, England: Meiklejohn and Son; New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 155 pp. $6.00.

***A Hundred Years of Archaeology.*** Glyn E. Daniel. London W.C.2, England: Gerald Duckworth; New York: Macmillan, 1950. 344 pp. $3.50.

***Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products,*** Vol. V. L. Zechmeister, Ed. Vienna, Austria: Springer-Verlag, 1948. 417 pp. $11.20 unbound; $12.00 bound.

***Early Man in the New World.*** Kenneth Macgowan. New York: Macmillan, 1950. 260 pp. $5.00.

***Isaac Newton.*** E. N. Da C. Andrade. New York: Chanticleer Press, 1950. 111 pp. $1.75.

***Advanced Chemical Calculations.*** Sylvanus J. Smith. London-New York: Macmillan, 1950. 454 pp. $2.75.

***Selected Readings in Social Psychology.*** Steuart Henderson Britt, Ed. New York-Toronto: Rinehart, 1950. 507 pp. $2.00.

***Riemannian Geometry.*** 2nd printing. Luther Pfahler Eisenhart. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1949. 306 pp. $3.50.

***Handbook of Aerial Mapping and Photogrammetry.*** Lyle G. Trorey. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1950. 178 pp. $5.00.