are the others, but discusses several recent developments in the field. It includes alternatives to maximum likelihood, situations where the population treated is estimated rather than known, experimental designs, independent action in mixtures, special methods for estimating high percentage points, and interpretation of standard errors.

The appendix on derivations has been considerably rearranged, and two new tables are added—on weighting with estimated populations, and on analysis of inverse sampling. The bibliography is extended. The book will continue to be almost indispensable in dosage-mortality studies.

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Wavelength Tables of Sensitive Lines. L. H. Ahrens. Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1951. 86 pp. $3.00.

These tables are of great value for the analyst dealing with the spectrographic d-c arc analysis of compound materials such as rocks, soils, and minerals. The main table contains the wavelengths of the most sensitive lines of 68 elements and information about relative intensities and sensitivities, and excitation potentials. The most valuable feature of the book is the listing of all possible interfering lines of other elements occurring in the neighborhood of each sensitive line within the range of about ± 0.5 A. Usually only three or four sensitive lines are listed—a sufficient number for an unambiguous identification. A smaller separate table lists the most sensitive lines of the rare earth elements and gives the values of the relative sensitivities as determined by Meggers and Scribner, and Smith and Wiggins.

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Proceedings of the Second Clinical ACTH Conference*; Vol. 1: *Research*; Vol. 2: *Therapeutics. John R. Mote, Ed. New York: Blakiston, 1951. Vol. 1: 531 pp.; Vol. 2: 716 pp. $8.50 each.

The rapid advances in medical science in recent years and the great increase in research have strained existing media for publication. Prompt announcement of significant discoveries, so important to continuing progress, is possible with relatively few journals, and it has become customary to read lay accounts months before the appearance of the scientific publication. The printing in book form of the proceedings of informal conferences has been tried as a partial solution to this difficulty. The careful correction and editing of such transactions is time-consuming, and often the better part of a year, or even longer, is required to produce the volume. On rare occasions, the printed transactions are ready for the reader as early as four months after the conference, and such was the case in this instance.

The two volumes comprise a record of a meeting held under the auspices of Armour and Company. The editor's introduction and the complete table of contents appear in each volume. The 102 contributions—41 in Volume I and 53 in Volume II—are by 312 authors; they cover a wide field, and nearly all branches of medicine are represented. The influence of corticotropin (ACTH) on various phases of metabolism and the effects of the hormone on a great variety of disease processes are the subjects of most of the papers. The communications largely represent new material destined for later publication in various journals. Most of the papers are followed by discussions, a total of 177 individuals thus participating, some as many as ten times. The contributions vary widely in quality and significance: some are products of precise and careful investigation; some recount large and others small series of observations; sometimes the conclusions are conservatively drawn, and at other times they reflect the enthusiasm of the investigators. Therapeutic effects might be graded as definite, slight, and negative by one observer, whereas the corresponding responses might be classed as dramatic, moderately dramatic, and disappointing by another.

The two volumes contain a wealth of detail on the physiological and clinical effects of the hormone newly introduced into therapeutics. Probably in no other single publication could one acquire information on so many aspects of the subject, and it is unfortunate that no index is provided. Without it the work does not serve well as a source of reference; although the table of contents lists the titles of the papers, there is no way of finding material within the extensive discussions. As there are some 357 separate items of discussion, some of them as long as or longer than the papers being discussed, and as these of necessity usually appear in their order of presentation at the conference regardless of subject matter, the reader has no way of finding what he seeks short of leafing through 1247 pages.

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Scientific Book Register

Seaweeds and Their Uses. V. J. Chapman. New York–London: Pitman, 1952. 287 pp. Illus. $6.00.

Theory of Matrices. Sam Perlis. Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1952. 237 pp. $5.50.

Ultraviolet Radiation. Lewis R. Koller. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1952. 270 pp. $6.50.

A Hundred Years of Biology. Ben Dawes. London: Duckworth; New York: Macmillan, 1952. 429 pp. $5.00.

Solubilities of Inorganic and Organic Compounds: A Compilation of Solubility Data from the Periodical Literature. Supplement to 3rd ed. containing data published during 1939–49, inclusive. Atherton Seidell and William F. Linke. New York: Van Nostrand, 1952. 1254 pp. $12.50.

The Theory of Relativity. C. Møller. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1952. 386 pp. $7.00.

Flour for Man's Bread: A History of Milling. John Storck and Walter Dorwin Teague. Minneapolis: Univ. Minnesota Press, 1952. 382 pp. Illus. $7.50.