notes that only three naturally occurring pteridines were known in 1945 and now as many as a dozen can be counted. They are considered to have an important function as regulators of cell division.

All the chapters contain extensive bibliographies, varying from 106 to 262 references.

In these days with the constant increase in the volume of literature, when time required for covering original papers is so great, authoritative and lucidly presented reviews such as these become increasingly more valuable.

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A Budget of Paradoxes. Augustus De Morgan. Unabridged republication of ed. 2 (1915) edited by David Eugene Smith, with a new introduction by Ernest Nagel. Dover, New York, 1954. xxvi + 789 pp. $4.95.

This well-known, remarkable collection of some "400 classic examples of scientific logic gone haywire, gleefully collected and mercilessly exposed by one of the wittiest mathematical innovators of the 19th century" first appeared in book form after De Morgan's death in 1871. Ernest Nagel, in his excellent introduction to the present reprinting, points out that many popular accounts of the developments of modern science tend to "portray the failures, the paradoxers, and the misplaced energies in the history of sciences as if they were invariably the products of foolish ignorance and astonishing incompetence"; that, although the *Budget* "gives ample proof that such paradoxers are indeed frequently undisciplined intellects," nevertheless "it also shows that they are often men with unusual mental powers. . . ." In any event, the failures and the apparent cranks in the quest for knowledge have not all been fools or ignoramuses. And surely there are many attentive readers of the *Budget* who will not be able to repress the comment in connection with some of the figures appearing in it: "There but for the grace of God go I."

DUANE ROLLER

Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation

Handbook of Textile Fibers. Milton Harris, Ed. Harris Research Laboratories, Washington 11, D.C. 1954. xii + 356 pp. Illus. $12.50.

The evolution of fiber science that has taken place during the last few decades has emphasized the need for good reference books to go beyond the framework of conventional chemical, physical, and engineering handbooks. Harris and his staff of able collaborators are to be commended for publishing a handbook that contains, in easily accessible form, important information widely scattered over the textile literature. Thus, it offers a valuable tool to those concerned with the fundamental and engineering aspects of fibers.

Handbook of Textile Fibers is a compilation of physical, chemical, and textile data frequently needed by the fiber technologist, with added information on nomenclature, economics, and fiber identification, as well as selected chemical and engineering tables. It shows some analogies with Kaswell's *Textile Fibers, Yarns and Fabrics,* which was published a few months earlier. However, its scope is somewhat different, and the two books supplement one another.

The data listed are reliable and up to date. Only a few minor flaws were noted, such as an incomplete "List of textile periodicals," a list of "Man-made fibers" that is not completely up to date (although some of the missing items may be found elsewhere in the book), a scarcity of foreign language literature references, and the absence of an author index. (Although it is true that many handbooks do not contain an author index, the value of the Harris book would undoubtedly be increased by an easily accessible reference to key publications.) Also, there are some slight inaccuracies. For instance, data are presented on Orlon without specifying to which of the widely different types they refer (p. 100).

In spite of such minor deficiencies, the new handbook is definitely an important addition to the textile literature. There are few books in the fiber field that contain so much information in so little space.

Handbook of Textile Fibers is well printed and contains a wealth of tabulated data and many well-reproduced illustrations. It can be warmly recommended to all those whose work requires frequent and quick reference to the characteristics and the performance of natural and man-made fibers. It is up to date in all important respects and reflects the research achievements of a generation, compiled and interpreted by the dedicated effort of a group of outstanding contributors.

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Chemstrand Corporation

Miscellaneous Publications

The Chemical Industry Facts Book. Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc., Washington, 1955. 148 pp. $1.

Specification for Dry Cells and Batteries. NBS Circular 559. National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, 1955 (Order from Supt. of Documents, GPO, Washington 25). 17 pp. $0.25.

The Archeological and Paleontological Salvage Program in the Missouri Basin, 1950–1951. Smithsonian Misc. Collections, vol. 126, No. 2. Paul L. Cooper. The Institution, Washington, 1955. 99 pp.

New York Life Insurance Co. 110th Annual Report, 1954. The Company, New York 10, 1955. 37 pp.

Enemy Way Music. A study of social and esthetic values as seen in Navaho music. Rpt. of Rimrock Project Values Ser. No. 3. David P. McAllester. Peabody Museum, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, 1954. 96 pp. $2.65.

Soil Freezing. Highway Research Bd. Bull. 100. Natl. Acad. of Sciences–Natl. Research Council, Washington 25, 1955. 35 pp. $0.60.

Aprovechamiento de la Energia Atomica. Ser. Monogr. Cientificas. German E. Villar. Div. de Publicaciones, Union Panamericana, Washington, 1955. 66 pp.