Advances in Catalysis and Related Subjects. vol. IX. Proceedings of the International Congress on Catalysis, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1956. Adalbert Farkas, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1957. xviii + 847 pp. Illus. $16.

Every effort was made to get the world leaders in catalysis to participate in this conference, and with marked success. Sir Hugh Taylor, whose ideas on active points and activated adsorption have guided research through the years, highlights the past advances and looks to the future. It is particularly appropriate that Sir Eric Rideal should join again with Taylor in a common enterprise and discuss surfaces in the light of his wide experience.

One hundred and forty-seven contributors have prepared 83 papers for this volume; these are presented in four major symposia. First, the "Chemistry and Physics of Solid Catalysts" includes hydrogenation and hydrogen exchange reactions, physical properties of catalysts, electronic properties, and catalytic activity. Next, "Homogeneous Catalysis and Related Effects" is followed by "Surface Chemistry and Its Relation to Catalysis." Finally, "Techniques and Technology of Catalysis" includes consideration of catalytic reactions of hydrocarbons, tracer and other techniques, and various catalytic reactions.

In a book where nearly every chapter is excellent, it is difficult to single out the high spots. Notable are the magnetic studies by Selwood of structure and electron density in a functioning catalyst. Turkevich and his associates find a sharp magnetic reasonance in a charcoal which has been heated and then evacuated. De Boer gives a useful discussion of the structure and texture of catalysts. Garner's discussion of electron transfer and catalysis reflects his wide experience. Eley takes an interesting look at mechanism, and Emmet surveys tracer and adsorption techniques in catalysis. Houdry highlights the practical approach, while Schwab presents the modern solid-state aspect of catalysis. Every catalytic chemist will want to read this excellent book.

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Palmer's Fieldbook of Mammals. E. Laurence Palmer. Dutton, New York, 1957. 321 pp. $3.75.

By concentrating on mammals, Palmer has been able to include in this pocket-sized book a fuller coverage of native North American varieties than was the case in his larger *Fieldbook of Natural History*. As before, however, the contents include wild types from this continent, pets and domesticated forms from the whole world, and a well-chosen selection of species popular in literature and zoos. About a third of the present book concerns domesticated and semi-domesticated mammals, with many helpful notes and a wealth of detailed information useful to farmer, housewife, parent, and junior naturalist.

Clear illustrations and specifications concerning geographic range, dental features, size and age and color range, breeding habits, growth rate, pulse, body temperature, and the like will be helpful to the technical zoologist, while notes on tracks and scats will aid the outdoor naturalist and conservationist.

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Die Bluteiweisskoerper des Menschen. Untersuchungsmethoden und deren klinisch praktische Bedeutung. Ferdinand Wuhrmann and Charlie Wunderly. Schwabe, Basel, 1957 (order from Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York). 499 pp. Illus. $13.

The new edition of this well-known textbook is, like the previous ones, divided into seven chapters. (i) "Chemistry of plasmaproteins" classifies the plasma proteins according to their electrophoretically separable components; discusses their chemical, physicochemical, and immunological properties, and treats the atypical proteins ("para-proteins") similarly. (ii) "Protein reactions" gives a selection of qualitative and quantitative methods for protein determination. (iii) "Test-methods" describes salt and alcohol fractionation, electrophoresis, and ultracentrifugation, with special emphasis on paper electrophoresis as a routine clinical method, and includes the new technique of immunoelectrophoresis. (iv) "Clinical-chemical methods" presents some laboratory tests for determining plasmaprotein alterations. (v) "Clinical significance of the plasmaproteins" classifies certain disease groups involving "para- and dys-proteinemias" into nine *"Reaktionskonstellationen."* This is followed by a helpful reveiew of the relative values of the different laboratory methods and a thorough survey of the changes in blood proteins in specific diseases. A table summarizes, for purposes of differential diagnosis, the blood protein picture of obscure diseases. (vi) "Clinical considerations of dysproteinemias and paraproteinemias" deals with disease patterns resulting directly from severe and lasting changes in the different plasma protein components. The section on macroglobulinemia (Waldenstroem) has been considerably enlarged, while there are new sections on purpura hyperglobulinemia (Waldenstroem), gamma-globulin deficiency and the recently discovered analbuminemia (Bennhold). (vii) "Origin and formation of blood proteins" offers some speculations, mainly from the clinical point of view.

As the authors point out in their preface, no attempt is made to discuss hemoglobin, blood-clotting, and lipoproteins. Extensive references to the international literature are given throughout the book. The clinician will again welcome the schematic and lucid diagrams, which facilitate the recognition of the most important changes in each of the abnormalities discussed. Many of the terms, such as *para-* and *dys-proteinemia*, as well as some of the clinical laboratory methods, well known elsewhere, are not common in this country. This limits the value of the book to the American physician to some extent, and it will be interesting to see whether the English edition that has been announced will receive as wide an acclaim among clinicians here as the German edition has received in German-speaking countries.

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Science and the Creative Spirit. Essays on humanistic aspects of science. Karl V. Deutsch, F. E. L. Priestley, Harcourt Brown, and David Hawkins. Harcourt Brown, Ed. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1958. xxviii + 165 pp. $4.50.

The title of this collection of four essays by humanistic scholars is, as the editor confesses in his introduction, somewhat paradoxical and ambiguous. The difficulty lies in the subject, which cannot be labelled more precisely until it is better understood. Many scientists would maintain that science does have its humanistic aspects and would deplore the fact that only scientists, and perhaps few of them, can explain what these aspects are. Others would argue that the humanistic aspects of science, if it has any, are accidental and unintentional; accordingly the study of them might well be left to humanists who presumably have nothing better to do.

The history of science, which might have dealt with this field, has become a specialized discipline. The authors of these essays regard themselves as ama-