

the newest and best text-books of organic chemistry has its contents divided into the three sections of aliphatic, alicyclic and aromatic.

The author of a successful monograph must not only be an authority and expert in the subject, but he must make his collection of material as exhaustive as possible, arrange it clearly and systematically and indicate fresh lines of research; if, in addition, he possesses an attractive and concise style, such as is often *not* found in works of this kind published in the German language, the result of his labors is certain to be more than valuable. Professor Aschan's book amply fulfils all these requirements, and therefore the thanks of chemists are due to him for his exertions, and their congratulations on the manner in which he has discharged his task. Some idea of its magnitude will be gained when it is mentioned that more than 5,000 citations are embodied in the 1,200 pages which the book contains. These references to the literature of the subject are brought down to August, 1905. Only an extended use of the work will show how free it may be from error; as yet the reviewer has failed to detect any.

The book should certainly be obtained by all workers in organic chemistry, because they will find it most useful and interesting. Very appropriately, the author has dedicated it to Professor Adolf von Baeyer, in commemoration of his seventieth birthday.

J. BISHOP TINGLE.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

The Museum News of the Brooklyn Institute for April contains articles on 'How Insects are Protected' and 'How to Collect and Preserve Insects,' besides various shorter notes, one of which records the acquisition of a specimen of the rare African water-shrew, *Potamogale*. The collection of shells at the Children's Museum has been rearranged with a view to add to its interest and attractiveness.

The Bulletin of the College of Charleston Museum contains a brief sketch of Dr. Shecut and the origin of the museum, this being one

of the papers dealing with the 'History of the Museum.' There seems good reason to hope that the museum may obtain larger and more suitable quarters in the building known as the Thomson Auditorium.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

THE one hundred and twenty-eighth regular meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University on Saturday, April 28, 1906. President W. F. Osgood occupied the chair. Fifty members attended the two sessions. The council announced the election of the following ten persons to membership in the society: Rev. R. D. Carmichael, Hartselle, Ala.; Mr. F. L. Griffin, University of Chicago; Mr. W. R. Longley, University of Chicago; Mr. W. D. MacMillan, University of Chicago; Mr. F. W. Owens, Evanston Academy; Dr. J. J. Quinn, High School, Warren, Pa.; Mr. W. J. Risley, University of Illinois; Dr. R. P. Stephens, Wesleyan University; Mr. J. D. Suter, Iowa State College; Mr. A. M. Wilson, McKinley High School, St. Louis, Mo. Eighteen applications for membership were received. The total membership of the society is now five hundred and thirty.

Professor W. F. Osgood was appointed a member of the editorial committee of the *Transactions*, to succeed Professor E. W. Brown, who retires after seven years' service covering the entire period of existence of that journal.

The by-laws were amended to provide that only members of at least four years' standing shall be permitted to compound life membership.

The following papers were read at the meeting:

G. A. MILLER: 'Groups in which all the operators are contained in a series of subgroups such that any two of them have only identity in common.'

W. H. ROEVER: 'Lines of force illustrated by rotating carriage wheels.'

W. H. ROEVER: 'Systems of lines of force whose differential equations take Bernoulli's form in polar coordinates.'