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which crumbles into dust as one cuts the leaves, and sticks like chalk to the fingers, is not necessary to the proper printing of photo-engravings, but is offensive to every person of taste. The illustrations are of varied quality, some very good, the majority mediocre, none striking. The maps are expellent, and there is a fair index.

Texas: A Contest of Civilization. By George P. Garrison. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1903. Pp. v., 320.

Of all the authors who have contributed to the "Commonwealths Series." certainly none has had a more inviting subject than Mr. Garrison. Here, one would think, there was little necessity for a mere chronicling of the small beer of cross-roads politics; little difficulty in keeping in the main travelled roads of American historical development. If the subject is an attractive one, the writer's opportunities as professor of history in the University of Texas must have been equally exceptional. The result however, is somewhat disappointing. While the book is far from being the poorest in the series, it does not level up with the best. If this is an unfair standard, it still remains true that Professor Garrison's 'Texas' is not as valuable a work as might justly have been expected by those who are familiar with the series as a whole; hit neither gives us a great deal of newcor detailed information (which the author states has not been his object), nor reveals any very suggestive or illuminative thought in dealing with the history of Texas as an

-the history of Texas to 1821, the history | Holst. of the relations of Texas and Mexico from 1821 to 1837, the history of Texas from 1837 to the present time.

The first part is satisfactory. The description of the rivalry between France and Spain for possession, and the discussion of the types of Spanish settlement, the weaknesses and failure of Spanish colonizing methods, constitute the best treatment of the subject in English in brief space. While a fuller statement of the governmental organization of the Provincias Internas after 1775 would have been serviceable, the brief outline here given stands out in clear relief when compared with the vague, ill-informed treatment of the same subject in English generally. In treating of the relations of Texas and Mexico from 1821 to 1837, to which something over a third of the book is devoted, the result is still in the main satisfactory. The author traces in some detail the internal history of Mexico from the establishment of the Republic of 1824 to the centralizing reaction under Santa Anna; shows how the location and physical character of Texas made colonization from the United States inevitable; gives in detail the history of Austin's settlement; and then relates the story of the war between Texas and Mexico until the achievement of independence by the former in 1837. This struggle, the author impresses upon us, was the irrepressible conflict of two radically different types of civilization; slavery was merely one, not especially important, element in the difference. The war was entered into by Texas at first for the purpose of restoring the Constitution of 1824, which Santa Anna had virtually overpossible did independence become the ob-

This is very well, and doubtless this point of view needs emphasizing. But in emphasizing it we think Professor Garrison has underestimated the importance of ciples.' For physical chemistry there is slavery in Texas and of the slavery ques- the treatise of Professor Jones. We enanot tion in the United States. "The idea that it [i. e., the colonization and revolutionizing of Texas] was consciously inaugurated and carried out with that object in view [extension of slave territory] is too palpably mistaken to be worth discussion," he says (p. 216). This is too curt a dismissal of a difficult matter. One may sympathize with the author's obvious dislike of the term "slavocracy," and still regret that he has not found it worth while to say anything about Sam Houston previous to his arrival in Texas. It was indeed a contest of two opposing civilizations that severed Texas from Mexico, rather than a contest between Mexico and the "slavocracy," but the contest was influenced not only by the existence of slavery in Texas, but also by the existence of the slavery question in the United States. The South needed new territory to protect the institution of slavery, and because of this fact there existed a community of interest between the slaveholding States and the slaveholding Texans. which made revolution more desirable and easier than it would have been otherwise. Not the existence of slavery in the United States, so much as the existence of slavery in the Southern States only, was the fact of vital importance in the history of Texas. incident in the expansion of the United | If the author has failed to emphasize this fact, it is doubtless because of his anxiety The book may be divided into three parts to avoid the "slavocracy" ardor of Von

The last part of the book is, to say the least, inadequate. It is with a sense of bewilderment, deepening to positive amazement, that one reads chapter after chapter with scarcely more than a hint here and there of the tremendous issues that were producing civil war in the United States. The question of annexation is dispatched in the briefest, most perfunctory fashion. One might suppose that the issue depended upon the series of pointless battles which were fought by the Texan and Mexican armies, rather than upon events occurring in the United States. The civil war and reconstruction are susceptible, it appears, of a similarly conventional consideration. With every approach to the slavery question, indeed, the treatment becomes gingerly in the extreme. In a word, it is obvious that Professor Garrison has persistently fought shy of the historical problem presented by slavery in the United States. Whatever the real or fancied necessity for this method, it has proved almost fatal to what otherwise might have been one of the best books of an excellent series.

The index is fairly good. No bibliography has been prepared, and no references are given. The comparative inaccessibility of the material makes it desirable that the author should have performed this essential service for students of American history.

Inorganic Chemistry: With the Elements of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry. By J. I. D. Hinds. John Wiley & Sons. 1902. 8vo, pp. 566.

thrown; not until this was found to be im- | no knowledge of zoology or botany; but everyday life nowadays demands acquaintance with a very considerable body of chemical facts, principles, and methods. For a first introduction to the subject, we have a work of genius, Mendeleef's 'Prinsee why it would not be better to begin one's descriptive study with the simpler, more instructive, and better understoodalbeit the bulkier-organic branch. The reverse is the universal practice. It is a tradition from a time when the Berzelian theory appeared to render inorganic bodies the simplest things in the world, while organic chemistry was a chaos. However, all the books are written on the assumption that the student takes up inorganic chemistry first, and thus he is well-nigh compelled to do so. It is just as it is with geometry, all mathematics being written on the assumption that metrical geometry is studied first, projective geometry next, and topical geometry last of all, although no fundamental understanding of metrical geometry is possible except on a basis of projective geometry, nor of projective geometry except on a basis of topical geometry. The force of history asserts itself even in pure science. But arrange the curriculum as one will, there comes a day when the young chemist has to sit down and commit to memory a vast load of facts about the elements and their compounds. For that severe labor we have seen no single volume better adapted than this of Professor Hinds. It is well packed with well-chosen facts stated with the utmost simplicity; and there is not one that it will not pay a modern man to know by heart, A considerable number of extremely easy experiments are suggested, and the preface to this volume informs us that there is another for use in the laboratory. Such a volume is wanted.

One of the features which particularly adapts this treatise to memorizing is its strict adherence to Mendeléei's arrangement of the elements. Just here, too, is the principal fault of the book. It not only never suggests the inadequacies of that arrangement, as even Mendeleef himself often does, but it stuffs the new earthy metals into the Mendeldeflan pigeonholes in a manner to make Procrustes grin. Praseodymium and neodymium, two elements so much alike that years of fractional crystallization are required to effeet the separation of them, are here placed in different groups with a black line running between them to show that one of them is basic, the other acidic. Gadolinium and thulium are earthy metals whose elementary nature is not the most certain of facts. They both come from the same mineral and are difficult for an ordinary chemist to distinguish. One of them . is made by Prof. Hinds to be intermediate between silver and gold, while the other is grouped with chlorine, bromine and lodine; and there is no reason whatsoever for this except that their atomic weights. which are dubious to the last degree, bring them into those places. There are other cases just as bad. In short, the "periodic law" of the elements is treated as if it stood on a par with the three laws of motion.

No chemist who thoroughly compre-A dweller in town can do very well with | hends the logic of such inquiries and who

knows the history of attempts to classify the elements as it is set forth in Professor Venable's 'Development of the Periodic Law,' can fail to admire supremely the wonderful discovery of Mendeléef. But in physical inquiries it often happens that the student notices a regularity which, upon following it up, continues to be fulfilled. but only in a roughly approximate sense. This state of things shows that there really is some such regularity, but that it has not been correctly formulated. There must really be such a law, or it would not conon very satisfactorily for a long time, if might appear to him as a desert of unione is not too particular, and then suddenly goes quite to pieces, though perhaps later it may come out clear and definite again. This is what we ought to expect in the case of Mendeléef's law; for throughout it is quite wanting in anything like numerical definiteness. It should be regarded as proved that the relations between the metals of the rare earths are not represented at all in Mendeleef's table; and if its lower lines can be regarded as fitting the facts at all, the fit is a mighty loose one, a sort of ready-made fit that would suit very different facts just as well. We

ought to add that any complete discussion of the evidences of the periodic law ought to take account of several other considerations which we have not space to notice

It is a serious fault in Professor Hinds's work that it treats the law as if it were perfect. It not only teaches what is not proved to be true, but even what is proved not to be true. It may be said that the table, at any rate, lends a support to the memory. So it does; but it would do so all the better if its inadequacies were tinue to be fulfilled at all. It cannot be pointed out. They would forcibly strike correctly formulated, or it would be ful- the student's attention and serve as landfilled more exactly. Such a law often goes | marks, so to speak, in what otherwise formity.

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