They give information for which one would have to search the library—and few libraries could possibly have more than a part of the original data. They also give us information compiled in a systematic manner which actually could not be had elsewhere.

The fifth edition of the *Handbook of Chemistry* is outstanding on both counts. It is a far cry from the early editions of English handbooks and the Chemiker Kalender. The topical variety of the information included is enormous. There is no need here to discuss the contents except that several new chapters on the periodic table, flammable liquids, plastics, fluorescence, and industrial water have been added and many others rewritten and extended. The list of 6,507 organic compounds giving their physical properties and 3,600 additional synonyms as footnotes alone would make this volume indispensable. The index contains 3,600 entries.

It is difficult to see how anyone dealing with the natural sciences could justly avoid the constant use of this splendid handbook without spending precious hours in search of textbooks and libraries for data. The reviewer feels that this volume is a real contribution to the scientific literature and an important factor in making research work more efficient.—Z. I. Kertesz.

**FOOD AND FARMING IN POST-WAR EUROPE**


This is an admirably clear and informative little book on the peasantry of Europe. These 170 million people, depressed and exploited ever since the Industrial Revolution, are surely in need of fulfillment of the obligation which the United Nations incurred in promising “Freedom from Want”.

The rehabilitation and rebuilding of Europe after the war will depend to a great extent on the success of efforts to improve the lot of the farming peasantry. This will be especially true in eastern Europe, where they make up 60 to 70% of the population. They must be able to produce food again and must become more efficient than they were in the past due to many factors mostly beyond their power to remedy.

The complicated subject is presented through sketches of the daily life of farmers in various countries. After discussing the possible approaches to improve the lot and efficiency of the peasantry, another set of sketches show how much difference the proposed reforms would make in the life and efficiency of the same farmers which have been pictured under the present system. The little volume is written in the most enjoyable style and makes one hope that more informative books of this nature will be written and widely read.—Z. I. Kertesz.