

The Dawn of Life. J. H. RUSH. The English Universities Press Ltd., London, 1958. pp. 258. Price 15s.

There is a tendency in all of us to let our basic scientific education rust after we have passed on to the more specialized work by which we gain our bread and butter. This is partly our own fault, and, partly, due to an inability to find books, not so learned as to be incomprehensible, and not so simple as to be childish, by which we can bring ourselves up to date with the constantly changing ideas and hypotheses of this astonishing epoch. Here, in relatively small compass and at a reasonable price, is a readable account of much that is going on in the realms of physics, both terrestrial and astral, and of chemistry. The author propounds a reasonable hypothesis to show how life might have come about almost accidentally. In the development of his thesis he shows that life on the moon and on the other planets of the solar system is unlikely.

For those who are interested in keeping up with their digest-reading neighbours this work will prove a most valuable weapon. The author, an American scientist, writes in clear, impeccable English, and his book is thoroughly recommended.

The Present Sterilizing Practice in Six Hospitals. London. The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 1958, pp. 76. Price 5s. 0d.

This work will be found useful by all those whose work takes them into hospitals. There is an appendix dealing specifically with sterilization of syringes.

Faculty News

From the North-west England Faculty comes their fifth faculty journal, and the previous standard is maintained. Their activities are detailed, and there are useful lists of members, officers, committees, forthcoming lectures, and the like mingled with some brief commentaries on research projects, etc. Faculty personalities continue to be spot-lighted one by one in an engaging way, and "Librehomme" contributes some more verse. The balance between solid factual data and light presentation is well struck.

The Welsh Faculty have produced a printed Autumn Report for 1958, and record good steady progress. There are lists of officers and committee members, and details of courses arranged. Medical library facilities in West and South Wales are described in detail, and the report concludes with the byelaws of the faculty and a list of members and associates.