A French-English Dictionary for Chemists (2nd Edition), by A. M. PATTERSON. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York; Chapman and Hall, Ltd., London, 1954, xiv + 476 pages, $ 6.50.

To Prof. PATTERSON, author of the well-known German-English Dictionary for Chemists, workers in chemistry and related fields are greatly indebted for the publication of what he calls "a French companion" of the above-named work. The first edition of this French-English dictionary for Chemists appeared in 1921 and we are now happy to review a second completely revised edition. Besides the terms pertaining to chemistry and related sciences, which one expects to find in a dictionary of this kind, the book also contains many general words and expressions and even forms of irregular verbs, thus helping the English user with scanty knowledge of French to understand the meaning of French scientific publications. For this kind of user the general remarks on French grammar (e.g. formation of feminine and plural in French) contained in the introduction will be particularly useful. Another feature of the introduction which will be useful also for those users who know both languages is the presentation of rules for correctly translating organic chemical names from French into English; with the lack of uniformity still reigning in this field, a list of concise and clear directions must be greatly appreciated.

This dictionary will thus not only help English-speaking users in reading French papers but will also, among other things, help French scientists in their contacts with English-speaking colleagues and in preparing English summaries of their publications – a practice which is coming more and more into use, e.g. in international publications. In order to save space, many terms having the same spelling and meaning in French and English have been omitted from this dictionary, but the vocabulary has nevertheless grown considerably. The quality of such a compilation only becomes evident after considerable use; a selection of words which the reviewer has looked up have been found to be recorded satisfactorily.

The book has the same good quality paper and binding and the same handy format as its German companion. It will be a very valuable addition to any chemical library and is highly to be recommended to anyone concerned with chemical and related literature in French.

Y. MEYER (Amsterdam)

The Chemistry of Lipids of Biochemical Significance, J. A. LOVERN, Methuen & Co. Ltd., London, 1955, 132 pages, 8*s*.6*d*.

The series of Methuen's Monographs on Biochemical Subjects, of which this book forms part, fulfills the useful function of providing authoritatively written, well produced, and inexpensive treatments of selected topics. In the book under review, the author has had remarkable success in compressing a great deal of information into a small space. After an introductory section in which the vexed question of nomenclature is dealt with briefly, there are five chapters discussing the structure of lipids, their preparation and analysis, and the forms in which they occur in the tissues (including a short section on lipoproteins); there follow a highly selective consideration of lipid metabolism and an all too brief discussion of the function of lipids. The meagerness of this last section emphasizes the great difficulties that are experienced by anybody who attempts to expound the functions of a plastic tissue constituent by way of inductive reasoning. There is no author index, and the subject index is unfortunately inadequate.

ERWIN CHARGAFF (New York)

Connective Tissue in Health and Disease, Publié sous la direction de G. ASBOE-HANSEN, Munksgaard, Copenhague, 1954, 321 pp., 80 Figs., $ 7.50 (Danish kroner 50).

Cet ouvrage constitué d'une série de monographies rédigées par des spécialistes, est destiné à donner une vue d'ensemble des travaux suscités par le tissu conjonctif et ses constituants. Les quatre premiers articles concernant respectivement la morphologie normale et la morphogénèse du tissu conjonctif (ROBB-SMITH), l'histochimie du tissu conjonctif (MCMANUS), la chimie des substances fondamentales du tissu conjonctif (MEYER) et les progrès récents dans la chimie du collagène (KULONEN), et les deux exposés suivants étudiant le métabolisme des mucopolysaccharides du tissu conjonctif et la labilité du radical sulfate dans les sulfo-mucopolysaccharides, résument les données analytiques et l'aspect dynamique du collagène et des mucopolysaccharides. Deux articles consacrés, l'un à la réaction de diffusion (DURAN-REYNALS) et l'autre à l'inhibition de l'hyaluronidase (MATHEWS ET DORFMAN) traitent plus particulièrement de cet enzyme.