Gabriel-François Venel. Cours de Chimie. Edited by Christine Lehman. Pp. 450, illus., index. Editions Universitaires de Dijon/Corpus: Dijon. 2010. €22. ISBN: 978-2-915611-64-9.

This volume, which is part of the *Corpus des oeuvres de philosophie en langue française*, contains a transcription of a notebook written by Claude-Denis Balme, who attended Gabriel-François Venel's lectures on chemistry in 1761, that is, around the years in which Venel wrote his famous chapters for the *Encyclopédie*. Even though he was a very successful professor in Montpellier, Venel never published a textbook on chemistry, so the preserved student notebooks are precious sources for the study of his lectures, and offer additional information about mid-eighteenth-century chemistry. The transcribed notebook contains sixty-four lectures arranged according to the usual three-kingdom division — plant, animal and mineral chemistry — with a full section on "halotechnie" (chemistry of salts). Unfortunately, the transcription is not annotated, but it includes a brief introduction by Christine Lehman (who has published many papers on Venel) and a useful name index.

Über Galvanismus und deutsche Träumereien: Zur Rezeption romantischer Naturforschung in Frankreich zwischen 1800 und 1820. By Bernd Klengel. Pp. 180, illus., index. Franz Steiner Verlag: Stuttgart. 2010. €40. ISBN: 978-3-5150-9780-2.

This book deals with the reception of *Naturphilosophie* in France during the early nineteenth century. The main focus is on electricity, but many chapters include interesting information for historians of chemistry. In fact, topics related to electricity were usually included in chemistry textbooks during the analysed period, when many chemists discussed the relationship (if not identity) between chemical and electrical forces, and introduced electrical instruments into chemical laboratories. The main protagonists of the narrative are Johann Wilhem Ritter, Christian Samuel Weiss, and Hans Christian Ørsted (whose work on electricity and chemistry is discussed in several sections). The author analyses a substantial number of papers published in German and French journals, but largely neglects recent historiography on related topics (for instance, on the circulation of science, scientific travels, and go-betweens), which could have probably encouraged a more sophisticated approach and additional questions concerning channels of circulation, intended audiences and contexts of appropriation of *Naturphilosophie* in France. The volume is the sixty-fourth issue of the series "Boethius," which is focused on history of mathematics and science.

Territori delle Acque. Esperienze e teorie in Italia e in Inghilterra nell'Ottocento. Edited by Gabriele Corsani, illus., index. Leo S. Olschki: Firenze. 2010. €20. ISBN: 978-88-222-5988-2.

This edited volume contains critical studies and primary sources on topics related to water in nineteenth-century Italy and England. After an introductory chapter by Gabriele Corsani, who reviews the different "territories of water," the next chapter, by Antonello Boatti, deals with irrigation technology and navigation in Lombardy, and includes two brief contemporary texts by mid-nineteenth-century Italian authors. Another chapter, by Marco Geddes da Filicaia, analyses the work on cholera by the Italian physician Corrado Tommasi-Crudeli, and reproduces one of his most significant texts. In a similar vein, the last two chapters review the work of the economist Aldred Marshall and the urban geographer Ebenezer Howard, including an edition of two brief but relevant writings by these English authors. With this original combination of primary sources and critical studies, the editor attempts to cover a wide scope of issues concerning water in the nineteenth century, from hygiene, public health and urban geography to economy, engineering and agriculture. Regrettably, scarce attention is paid to recent scholarship on similar topics, particularly those related to the history of chemistry and medicine.