mentation, Dr. Singer claims that an application of his method makes plain "what the essence of this conflict is ; why it should have endured through so long a past ; whether it need continue unresolved through all the future". His account is closely reasoned and cannot be summarized, but students of the history of thought will certainly profit by a close study of it.

The book concludes with a lecture on the mathematical way of thinking, written by Prof. Hermann Weyl. He defines it as "that form of reasoning through which mathematics penetrates into the sciences of the external world—physics, chemistry, biology, economics, etc., and even into our everyday thoughts about human affairs, and secondly that form of reasoning which the mathematician, left to himself, applies in his own field". It appeals "to the light in our innermost self". The interrelation between the sciences and mathematics goes back to Parmenides, at the very birth of Greek thought, and formed the essence of the Platonic philosophy. In those early days a solution was found by denying the reality of phenomena, but by this time we understand better the conditions of the problem, and make of mathematics a willing servant to help our thoughts, instead of allowing it to become a tyrannical master to check or suppress them. W. H. S. JONES.

AN ANTHROPOLOGIST LOOKS AT THE UNITED STATES

And Keep Your Powder Dry

An Anthropologist Looks at America. By Margaret Mead. Pp. x+274. (New York : William Morrow and Co., 1942.) 2.50 dollars.

IN this book an American looks at the United States. Her attitude is that the American authorities deserted the cause in 1919 and that the great slump of 1929–30 and its consequences were the retribution for their lack of moral courage. We may leave our American friends to argue that thesis, and deal here rather with the author's efforts to delineate American characteristics, which, as she rightly says, must be used in any constructive work for a better world.

The United States depended very largely on old skills brought by emigrants from Europe and on ideas even of machinery largely derived from Britain, but developed those machines enormously and achieved the revolution 'from the craftsman to the assembly line', with gain and loss to be set against one another. The book has a rather antique picture of Europe, feudal and peasant, and the England set forth is emphatically not the middle-class industrial north, nor is there any trace of Scottish porridge or tasty Welsh rarebit ! But the people of the United States probably surpass the British people generally in their worship of success, a success which in American circumstances must be measured by money even more than it is among us. To the United States have streamed immigrants from rural Europe, learning to speak a little broken American and yearning to see their children take a larger part in the glittering, if not always brave, new world ; and these children making their footing, absolve the next generation from using at home the old language from Europe as a sort of skeleton in the cupboard. The grandparents are a drag on the younger people, who want their children to go ahead again another step.

So it went on while the West was open-armed to receive men, and the 'dustbowl' was not yet filled with ruin. The question that presses itself on us all is how the United States will react now that there is so much less chance of geographical expansion. The author pleads for initiative and adventure in the realm of social relations, and her experiences of the peoples of the East Indies and the South Seas help her to an objective point of view that makes the book lively and interesting. Her Americans are not pugnacious but, in the words of the old song, "We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do . . .". Her Americans, again, come from many sources and traditions ; and yet there is the possibility of orchestrating these many cultures into a symphony that must be American in its reliance on individual energy and initiative, in its plans that give directives rather than goals, in its tolerance that enriches life, even if sometimes it delays decisions.

H. J. FLEURE.

SPANISH ASTRONOMICAL DATA

Anuario del Observatorio Astronómico de Madrid para 1943
Pp. 236. (Madrid : Instituto Geográfico, 1942.)

THIS work is very similar to those for previous years, the chief alterations being a table for interpolating the heliographic longitude of the centre of the sun's disk, and also small modifications in the elements of the principal planets to bring them up to recent determinations. In "Efemérides Del Sol, Para 1943" and "Efemérides De La Luna, Para 1943", in addition to other information such as times of rising and setting at Madrid, meridian passage, sidereal time for 0h. at Greenwich, and the moon's horizontal parallax, right ascension and declination of the sun and moon for each day are given for the times of transit at Greenwich, pp. 42–53, 89–100. These latter correspond to those in pp. 22–29 and pp. 156–171 respectively in the "Nautical Almanac", but in the work under consideration co-ordinates are given only to the nearest second of time in right ascension and second of arc in declination. The equation of time is not included with the solar co-ordinates but is given in a separate table to the nearest minute for 0h. each day at Greenwich. Another table supplies the sun's semi-diameter for every 10 days, the distance from the earth to the sun in terms of an astronomical unit to four decimal places, and also the sun's diurnal orbital motion on each of the ten days.

Among other features may be mentioned the elements of the planets, a special part being devoted to those of Pluto. These have been revised since the 1942 issue of the volume, and the more accurate figures by Bower at Lick Observatory have been included. Ephemerides for the planets for every ten days are given and also elements for the physical observation of Mars and Jupiter at intervals of four and seven days respectively. Comet workers will find a useful compilation of the elements of thirty-four periodic comets on pp. 162–163, and lists of star clusters, nebulæ, variable stars, double stars, and of stars occulted by the moon, visible at Madrid, etc.

Full explanations with examples of the application of the tables, etc., are given, and even an amateur astronomer who has just started on the subject will find little difficulty in using the work. M. D.