

various beliefs, Prof. Campbell's conclusion is that instead of discovering something absolute in the realm of belief, one finds that beliefs are the tools of life rather than rare intellectual products to be cherished carefully for themselves. H. D. A.

*Tribal Dancing and Social Development.* By W. D. Hambly. Pp. 296 + 26 plates. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1926.) 21s. net.

MR. HAMBLY has surveyed dancing and music as a communal activity and expression of emotion literally from the cradle to the grave, for he begins with the celebration of a birth and ends with the dance which follows death—often long after death, like the dance in the Nicobarese ceremony of disinterring the dead and collecting their bones. He does not concern himself with the individual or merely exhibition dancing as such, although in some of the Eastern dances it would be difficult to draw the line—for example, the whipping dance as a test of endurance as performed in the Sudan which he describes—and it would be easier to discriminate even in this case if it were possible to trace whether or not there were any possible connexion with the whipping ceremony sacred to Artemis, which was once celebrated at Sparta.

Important as it may be to consider dancing as a tribal or group activity, as an expression of an emotion, in ultimate analysis, it must be individual; and the same applies to music. In both cases, fundamentally, the appeal is to the rhythmic sense. Even in music, melody appears to be secondary. Those who have heard real savage music know what a wild appeal to the emotions can be made by the mere rhythmic beating of a drum; while the effect of modern dance music, undeniably, however much it may be disliked, lies in its beat and not in its tune. An analysis of the dance, whether individual or communal, as an effect of rhythmic appeal, has yet to be written.

Mr. Hambly's treatment is on more objective lines. His survey of the facts is a useful study of the geographical distribution and character of the dance as an element in ceremonial, which will be invaluable to the student and at the same time serve to bring home to those whose interest is least specialised, its importance as a social factor which, if not approached sympathetically in administration, might give rise to infinite difficulty.

*The British Journal Photographic Almanac and Photographer's Daily Companion, with which is incorporated The Year Book of Photography and Amateurs' Guide and The Photographic Annual, 1927.* Edited by George E. Brown. Pp. 820 + 31 plates. (London: Henry Greenwood and Co., Ltd., 1927.) Paper, 2s. net; cloth, 3s. net.

THIS is no longer an almanac, except in name, for that particular feature of the annual has been omitted since a year or two ago, presumably because it was not appreciated. We appreciated it and often turned to it. After four articles dealing with the use of reflex cameras, arranging

snapshots, developing and printing amateurs' films, and the use of 'chlorobrom' papers, follows the valuable "Epitome of Progress," which is a concise and classified history of photography for last year. It includes a very brief summing up of the most striking advances, the events of the year, besides trade and legal items. The largest section of the epitome concerns apparatus, equipment, and processes, and consists of abstracts of the accounts of these that appeared during the year, with all necessary formulæ and many illustrations. After the obituary, 65 pages of formulæ and instructions for the current photographic operations, and 40 pages of tables, comes a section of miscellaneous information. This last includes an excellent "History in Brief" of photographic and photomechanical processes, and various directories. With the text are 30 photogravure reproductions of photographs by some of the most noted workers. The annual fully maintains the unique position that it has earned for itself during its sixty-seven years of issue.

*Three Lectures on Atomic Physics.* By Prof. Arnold Sommerfeld. Translated by Dr. Henry L. Brose. Pp. iv + 70. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 2s. 6d. net.

IT is encouraging to find that these important lectures by one of the most prominent authorities on spectroscopy, delivered under the auspices of the University of London, are now accessible to all in English. They deal with the spectra of hydrogen and helium, and then proceed to the study of complex spectra such as manganese, iron, nickel, and palladium in the light of Pauli's "Principle of Uniqueness." The third lecture gives some much-needed information concerning the structure of crystals, from the point of view of the quantum theory.

The translation is carefully done, but errs on the side of literalness. The translation of *Grundzustand* as 'ground state' is scarcely English, while *abgeschlossen* as applied to systems of elements is 'self-contained' rather than 'completed,' and 'quantize' is rather more exotic than 'quantify' would be.

*New Conceptions in Colloidal Chemistry.* By Prof. Herbert Freundlich. Pp. vii + 147. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 6s. net.

THIS volume contains eight lectures delivered by the author in America in 1925. They deal in a masterly manner with the progress made along certain lines in colloid chemistry during the last few years, and indicate that such matters as adsorption, electrolyte coagulation, and the electrical and optical properties of colloidal systems are not so simple as they were once thought to be. The ample bibliographies, although impartial, show how fundamental is the work of Prof. Freundlich himself, who is to be congratulated on the rare gift of making his discoveries intelligible in two languages, for a German version of the book has already appeared.

P. C. L. T.