

Our Bookshelf.

Meteorological Office: Air Ministry. British Rainfall, 1926: the Sixty-sixth Annual Volume of the British Rainfall Organisation. Report on the Distribution of Rain in Space and Time over the British Isles during the Year 1926 as recorded by about 5000 Observers in Great Britain and Ireland. (M.O. 295.) Issued by the Authority of the Meteorological Committee. Pp. xv + 293. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1927.) 15s. net.

THE sixty-sixth volume of "British Rainfall," which deals with the year 1926, follows the lines of earlier volumes and is mainly statistical. There are tables and diagrams giving the total rainfall in each month, and for the whole year. The monthly totals are for nearly four hundred stations evenly distributed over the British Isles, while the annual totals are for nearly five thousand stations. The monthly evaporation from a free water surface, and the amount of rain percolating through depths of twenty, forty, and sixty inches of soil, in relation to the rainfall of each month, appear for a dozen stations. Covering as they do a variety of soils, these figures provide information of considerable horticultural interest. The annual rainfall statistics, on the other hand, continue to constitute indispensable information for engineering firms dealing with water-supply. An interesting analysis of heavy falls of rain in short periods is given (pp. 44-54). It includes figures for 1926 as well as for previous years. Falls of an inch in ten minutes have apparently occurred on several occasions, though not in 1926, and there is one instance of a quarter of an inch descending in a minute and a half.

To the general student of meteorology, mere statistics, especially when they refer to one meteorological element only, are of limited interest, and for this reason analyses of individual occasions of exceptional rain, illustrated by synoptic charts, such as are given for the severe and widespread thunderstorms of July 17-18, and for the heavy cyclonic rains of Nov. 4-5, are welcome additions.

It is interesting to note that for the British Isles as a whole, 1926 was rather a wet year, and was the fifth in succession to have a total equal to or greater than the average—the longest run of wet years experienced since 1875-83. The year 1927, it may be observed, will be an addition to this run. In distribution the rainfall of 1926 was very erratic, including the wettest January since 1877, the wettest November since 1870, and the driest December since 1870, when comparable statistics first became available.

How we Behave: an Introduction to Psychology. By Prof. A. E. Heath. Pp. vi + 90. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1927.) Cloth, 2s.; paper, 1s.

AMIDST the mass of psychological works that emanate from the printing presses at the present time, this little book deserves more than a passing notice. It is one of an admirable series designed,

in the words of the prospectus, "to meet a widespread demand from working-class students for inexpensive introductory books on subjects studied in elementary classes," and published under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association. The present work fully keeps up the high standard set by others in the series. It is, indeed, remarkable with what success Prof. Heath has tackled the task, that one would have been inclined to pronounce impossible, of giving an adequate introduction to psychology within the limits of ninety small pages. It is of course intended as an introduction and not a complete survey of the subject, and it is a merit of the work that it constantly suggests further questions in a way which cannot fail to stimulate the student to carry on his inquiries. The general scope of the work is sufficiently indicated by the chapter headings: "The Nature and Aim of Psychology," "The Subject Matter of Psychology," "The Development of Animal Behaviour," "The Development of Human Behaviour, (1) Towards a more Unified Response of the Self as a Whole, (2) Towards Completer Adjustment to the Full Realities of the Environment."

Prof. Heath studies the working of the mind from a dynamic point of view, and emphasises the element of conation or 'striving' in mental life. If he ever expands what he has to say here into a fuller work, one would welcome more detailed discussion of the relation of this 'striving' to consciousness, a point on which, while interesting and suggestive, he does not seem perfectly explicit. The only general criticism, if it is a criticism, that one could suggest, is that the student who begins on this work might get the impression that psychology is always a delightfully interesting and amusing study, a dream from which he would be likely to have a rude awakening when he went on to the works of some other authors. G. C. FIELD.

Furie Kyūsū oyobi Sekibun Ron, being a Japanese translation of H. S. Carslaw's "Introduction to the Theory of Fourier's Series and Integrals." Translated by G. Takemae. Pp. xii + 482. (Tōkyō: Uchida Rōkakuho, 1927.) 8 yen.

DURING the last fifteen years or so, several important books on physics and mathematics have been translated into Japanese. To the list of these is now added the book under notice. It is translated with accuracy into a clear and simple Japanese. In the preface the translator describes the difficulties which he had to cope with in bringing the book to the stage of publication, occasioned by the great earthquake of 1922 and his long illness in following years. Both the translator and the publishers must indeed be congratulated on their admirable work in translating and publishing in such a clear and well-printed form this excellent book by Prof. Carslaw.

The translation will no doubt prove useful to Japanese students of physico-mathematical and technological science. One fears, however, that the translator may not receive due reward for his labours. All Japanese university science students