

process is the spell. As indicated by Dr. Landtman, magic plays a most important part in the life of the Kiwai, but there is nothing in his record to suggest that the spell is specially important; the power of the magic seems to depend preponderantly on the actual ingredients of the 'medicine,' which are often chosen on frank *similia similibus* principles. The question then arises whether this difference is merely, as it were, accidental between two peoples inhabiting areas tolerably far apart, or whether it may be taken as the expression of a psychic and ultimately ethnic difference between true (Western) Papuans and (Papuo-) Melanesians.

### Our Bookshelf.

- (1) *Stellarastronomie*. Von H. Kobold. (Sonderausgabe aus der Encyclopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften.) Pp. iii + 239-372. (Leipzig und Berlin: B. G. Teubner, 1926.) 5-80 gold marks.
- (2) *An Outline of Stellar Astronomy*. By Peter Doig. Pp. viii + 183. (London: The Draughtsman Publishing Co., Ltd., 1927.) 7s. 6d. net.

THESE two books with somewhat similar titles are to a marked degree supplementary one to the other. Prof. Kobold's volume is an extract, 134 pages in length, from the "Encyclopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften." It was written in 1924 and has a few references introduced up to 1926. It is very complete in its historical work, giving, for example, an excellent account of all the important star catalogues and the early work on stellar motions and on the structure of the universe. It also gives good accounts of the more recent investigations up to 1924, but to a large extent it is affected by the common fault or quality of encyclopædias, it gives both sides of a discussion and rarely offers a decisive view on controversial points.

Mr. Doig's book is, on the other hand, an attempt to give an account of the present outlook on the constitution, dimensions, motions, and distribution in space of the stars and nebulae. Even in the short bibliography appended to each of his chapters he rarely goes back so much as ten years. His book is much more popular in style and he is rightly more dogmatic in his general statements about the nature of the stars and the structure of the universe. Both books will serve as useful sources of reference to the present-day student of astronomy—Kobold for the past and Doig for the present.

Reading the two volumes together, one is struck at the rapid change of outlook in recent years in stellar astronomy—apart from astrophysics proper, which is changing so largely from year to year with the development of theoretical spectroscopy and atomic physics. Kobold's book, with its merely occasional references to the contribution of astrophysics to the problems of the structure of the universe, reflects a period of isolation between the two halves of astronomy, an isolation which has now vanished. With Doig the interest lies on the other

side—the physical rather than the statistical—though he, too, has considerable interest in the statistical application of many physical observations. His own work along these lines, much of it published in the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, reappears quite properly in this book, set in the framework of the recent work of Eddington, Jeans, Russell, Seares, Shapley, and others, of which he gives an interesting account in his book.

*Maps, their History, Characteristics and Uses: a Handbook for Teachers*. By Sir Herbert George Fordham. Second edition. Pp. xii + 83 + 8 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1927.) 6s. net.

ALL who are interested in cartography and its history will welcome the issue of a second edition of Sir George Fordham's little book, which forms such an admirable introduction to the subject. It begins with a few pages on the elementary notions which lie behind the making and using of maps, and then we have an interesting page or two on terminology. How many people who commonly make use of atlases know who first used the term 'atlas,' and what a curious, far-fetched term it is? And how many remember that the word ousted its rivals 'theatrum' and 'speculum'?

After a concise and clear account of the history of map production, the author devotes a section of his book to art in cartography. This is a matter which deserves more study by cartographers than it sometimes receives. The use of colour in modern maps has led, in some instances, to a kind of carelessness in design; as if it were possible to smash one colour down upon another, and trust that all would come right in the final printing. It is sometimes forgotten that the use of five or six colours imposes upon the cartographer not less, but more, care in the design of the map than when dealing with a map in black and white.

The remarks on the graphic expression of the surface forms appear, on the whole, to be sound; it might have been mentioned that the Dutch surveyor who in 1729 first drew contours—in connexion with sea-bed soundings—was called Cruquius, and that Hutton used them in Great Britain in 1777, and that they were in use in military sketches in England probably so early as 1793. The author refers favourably to the Army "Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching," edition 1914; but it is doubtful if the student could now obtain a copy. The latest manual of the kind was published in 1921, and is larger, more difficult, and more 'professorial' than its predecessor. In conclusion, we can heartily recommend this little book to all who use maps, especially to teachers of geography.

*Romani Versions*. By Sir Donald Macalister. (Gypsy Lore Society Monographs, No. 5.) Pp. 67. (London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd., 1928.) n.p.

SIR DONALD MACALISTER, like other noted scholars, has given some of his leisure hours to the making of translations from English poetry. But whereas