

to travellers, and educational activities. An interesting historical chart shows the prosperity curve (total number of fellows) and the popularity curve (annual admissions) through the century, with the duration of each presidency and secretaryship shown. This is full of significance and repays careful study. Two chapters are added by Dr. A. R. Hinks on the Society's War work and a description of the new house which in its enlarged and completed form was opened by the Duke of York on Oct. 21. The volume is illustrated by plates, which include portraits of several of the presidents and other officials, various medals, and the different houses in which the Society has had its headquarters during the century. There is an admirably full index.

R. N. R. B.

Our Bookshelf.

Asia: an Economic and Regional Geography. By Dr. L. Dudley Stamp. Pp. xx + 616. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 27s. 6d. net.

It is not only the War, with its reconstruction of States and redrawing of frontiers, nor the readjustment of economic relations consequent on these and on the changes which even the most stable countries underwent in their industries and powers of consumption, that make a new survey of the continents necessary and welcome. During the same short period, the study and, most of all, the teaching of geography have been remodelled; even the popular outlook on the world has become geographically orientated in a way which would amaze the pioneer teachers of the previous generation. A mass of recent publications is to hand, and needs fresh guidance if it is to be used as it deserves; and everyone has less time for acquiring exact information which daily becomes more indispensable. A fresh compendium of the geography of Asia, therefore, arouses hopes and challenges criticism.

It is characteristic of the newer geography that it bases its exposition on the reading of maps; and Dr. Dudley Stamp's uses of this 'geographical shorthand' to condense and clarify what he has to say are numerous and often ingenious. It is characteristic, also, that geography is regarded less as a static presentation of what is, than as an interpretation of what has come to be. If it is not, and cannot strictly be, historical science, its method has at all events much that is akin to that of history. So the book rightly begins with an excellent account of the genesis of the continent, as a clue to its structure and physique; in which stress is laid on the provisional quality of much that is said, and alternative explanations are fairly stated. Geography, further, is an outdoor subject: and Dr. Stamp has travelled widely, in Burma, Malaya, China and Japan, Turkey, Syria and Palestine, and parts of Asiatic Russia. These journeys make possible many vivid touches of description, and a realism of outlook which permits easy handling of a very large

mass of information. Occasionally colloquial and lecture-room phrases seem to waste space; but they certainly make the book readable in a way not common among text-books. Where an earlier writer has done justice to a topic, Dr. Stamp, very sensibly, does not hesitate to quote him. The references to literature are carefully selected, and the index is ample.

It is a good test of a book of this kind, that it improves by better acquaintance. A belated review is perhaps none the less useful, if it can certify that this test has been applied: and Dr. Stamp's "Asia" is certainly a very usable book.

Experience and Nature. By John Dewey. (Published on the Foundation established in Memory of Paul Carus.) Pp. ix + ix + 443. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1929.) 12s. 6d. net.

In this brilliant and inspiring book, Prof. Dewey attempts to apply in philosophy the thought which is effective in dealing with any genuine question, from the elaborate problems of science to the practical deliberations of daily life. In his opinion, the break between the two realms is the cause of our modern intellectual perplexities and confusions. He is then led to attack the momentous problem of bridging the gap between the intellectual and moral heritage of civilisation, and the material presented to the speculative mind by science, industry, or even politics, by means of what he calls "the method of empirical naturalism."

This method accepts the point of view and conclusions of modern science, and acts like a winnowing fan on the innumerable presentations of experience. What remains after the chaff is blown to the winds is enough to inspire the mind with courage and vitality to create new ideals and values. Prof. Dewey's metaphysical construction is thus based on the conception of the instrumental nature of physical science. Yet he denies the necessity of dividing the objects of experience into a physical and an ideal world, by considering them as linked together by language and other social devices. For example, by regarding life as the link between physical nature and experience, he gives a solution of the mind-body problem which more orthodox philosophers might consider as simply ignoring the whole question. Again, art and values are taken as further proofs of the continuity between nature and experiences by being defined in a pragmatic rather than in an ontological fashion.

On the whole, Prof. Dewey's philosophy is to replace the traditional separation of nature and experience by the idea of continuity. Though refreshing and encouraging in its message, it fails, however, to satisfy our quest for a deeper knowledge of things and values. Prof. Dewey's continuity is immanent rather than transcendental in character; so that, although he talks about philosophy all the time, he seems to leave its most critical problems outside the vividly decorated house where he pretends to perform a valid marriage between nature and experience.