

something of the man, something of his work, and shall descend to those pedestrian but necessary details of fact and date which your tendentious or psychological biographer is disposed to ignore.

A newly appointed provincial mayor once announced to his fellow-magistrates that it would be his constant endeavour to tread the narrow path which lies between right and wrong. Mr. Martin has had a different, but equally difficult path to tread, and he has succeeded where some of his predecessors must be held to have failed. He has limned for us a pleasant picture of Faraday's charming and simple personality; he has not been afraid to give us relevant dates and facts; and he has provided for that difficult fellow, the intelligent layman, apt to become confused between magneto-electrics and electro-magnetics, a statement of Faraday's contributions to science which is intelligible, interesting and accurate. What better investment can a cautious reader demand for his florin? A. F.

*Empire Social Hygiene Year-Book 1934.* Prepared by the British Social Hygiene Council, Inc. First Annual Edition. Pp. 509. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1934.) 15s. net.

THIS year-book constitutes the first comprehensive survey that has been made of the subject of social hygiene. The book has been largely compiled from material made available by various Government departments and health authorities concerned, and contains recent information on the incidence of venereal diseases and facilities for their treatment in towns and counties at home and throughout the Empire. Certain vital statistics, such as the death rate, infant mortality rate, death rate from tuberculosis, and number of mental defectives, together with some details of biological teaching in schools, for each area dealt with are also included. It is proposed that one Dominion, or group of Colonies, should be the subject of a special survey in each annual issue, and Canada is selected for this volume. Special articles and appendices conclude this useful Empire Year-Book.

*Greek Geography.* By E. H. Warmington. (The Library of Greek Thought.) Pp. xlviii+269. (London and Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., 1934.) 5s. net.

As no early treatise on Greek geography has survived, the materials for re-constructing Greek notions of this subject have to be extracted from historical writers, or from later compendia of Roman date, such as Strabo and Pliny. This Mr. Warmington has done, giving English translations throughout, and grouping the passages under the main heads of cosmology, climatology, physical and political geography, exploration and mathematical geography with cartography. It was a pity to exclude writers so important as Xenophon and (in the main) Aristotle, though the difficulties of treatment are obvious. Necessary commentary is interpolated among the excerpts, or added in footnotes. There is a serviceable introduction and a good index.

*The Book of Air and Water Wonders.* By Ellison Hawks. Pp. 272+31 plates. (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 7s. 6d. net.

MR. HAWKS, the editor of the *Meccano Magazine*, has so many popular books on ships, machinery, astronomy and Nature, that we have lost count of them. They are most readable books, full of interesting sidelights and well illustrated. His latest book on the atmosphere, dew, fog, clouds, rain, wind, rivers, waterfalls and lakes, like his others, contains a lot of beautiful photographs, and from the armchair we are carried pleasantly to see Nature at work in many parts of the world.

### Philosophy

*Science and Sanity: an Introduction to Non-Aristotelian Systems and General Semantics.* By Alfred Korzybski. (International Non-Aristotelian Library.) Pp. xx+798. (Lancaster, Pa.: The Science Press Printing Co., 1933.) 5.50 dollars.

By analogy with a series of mathematical theories constructed on the negation of this or that axiom, Mr. Korzybski attempts to build up a non-Aristotelian system of universal knowledge. "Non-Aristotelian" is the name given to the system, because it purports to require the rejection of the famous principle of identity. This very foundation of the non-Aristotelian system seems very insecure to the present reviewer, for two reasons: in the first place, no one has consciously affirmed the principle of identity in the sense that Mr. Korzybski denies it; and secondly, this very principle is continuously, though covertly, used by the author, not only in the exposition of his views but also as identity of structure. The avalanche of irrelevant quotations from all fields of human knowledge does nothing but to add to the confusion in which one is left after reading this bulky volume. T. G.

*The Horizons of Thought: a Study in the Dualities of Thinking.* By Prof. G. P. Conger. Pp. xi+367. (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 22s. 6d. net.

PROF. CONGER has a peculiar method of expounding his philosophy. He amasses a wealth of quotations or paraphrases which are, at least verbally, relevant to his subject, without taking the trouble to discuss them in their actual context, and he goes on to draw some general and obvious conclusions which leave the reader none the wiser. His main thesis is that "our thinking proceeds by selection and at the same time a correlative neglect", the horizons of our thought have always a beyond, the spotlight leaves a background unilluminated. The author applies this thesis to widely diverse realms, from mathematics to ethics, and deduces more or less relevant conclusions. The reviewer cannot help thinking that Prof. Conger seems to leave in the background most of the problems which he wishes to solve: the spotlight of his analysis ought to go beyond the actual horizon of his thought as expressed in this volume.