

The Annual Register:

a Review of Public Events at Home and Abroad for the Year 1935. Edited by Dr. M. Epstein. Pp. xiv + 319 + 190. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1936.) 30s. net.

To condense into some three hundred pages the history of the world in such a troubled year as 1935 can have been no easy task, but it has been achieved in this invaluable book of reference.

About a third of that space is occupied with the story of events in Great Britain told admirably in narrative form, not lacking in colour and relief but wholly free from bias. This is followed by a short section on Imperial history and a section on foreign history, including a review of the work of the League of Nations during the year. Nothing of importance in political history appears to be omitted, and the whole is readable as a continued story.

The second half of the book opens with a chronicle of important events in social history, followed by a lengthy retrospect of literature, art and science with mention of the more important books of the year and extended reviews of about two dozen. Art, drama, cinema and music receive ample notice and science is condensed into fourteen pages, a terse summary of research and discovery grouped under biological and physical branches. Then comes a review of finance, commerce and law and finally many pages of obituary notices of prominent men and women.

Certain public documents are, as usual, given in full: they include Herr Hitler's announcement of military conscription in Germany, the British, French and Italian notes relating thereto, and the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance. The value of the volume is enhanced by a detailed index.

Communication Networks

By Prof. Ernst A. Guillemin. Vol. 2: The Classical Theory of Long Lines, Filters and related Networks. Pp. vii + 587. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1935.) 37s. 6d. net.

THE latest developments of the filter question are now made available in English, together with the most useful parts of the more difficult classical treatments by Zobel. It will be recalled that, starting with Campbell, the properties of filter sections of specified patterns were tabulated for procedure in design, which, after all, is the important aspect for the communication engineer; the actual design along these lines was, however, an art, in that many tries were often necessary for a satisfactory solution to the problem. Starting again with Cauer, the procedure previously based on deductions from transmission line conceptions gave way to conceptions based on obtaining network structures having specified impedances, using a theorem by Foster and the most general of filter structures, the lattice. Guillemin's second volume is therefore of considerable practical importance. Transient phenomena in filters are adequately dealt with, together with Bode's methods of impedance control.

L. E. C. H.

British Calendar Customs

England, Vol. 1: Movable Festivals. By A. R. Wright. Edited by Dr. T. E. Lones. (Published for the Folk-lore Society.) Pp. xvi + 212 + 8 plates. (London: William Glaisher, Ltd., 1936.) 12s. 6d. net.

THAT eminent folklorist, the late A. R. Wright, had made the collection of evidence relating to British calendar customs a lifelong pursuit. The much desired publication of a selection from this material has now been made possible through the Folk-lore Society by the generous assistance of his widow. The editor, with wise judgment, has elected to deal with the movable feasts as a whole in chronological order, thus avoiding the complications and difficulties which arise when an attempt is made to fit them into the framework of the ceremonies of a fixed calendar. At the same time, it is obvious that this method of dealing with the material has the disadvantage of detaching from one another seasonal practices, which are clearly related. This, however, is an inconvenience in critical study which will be reduced to a minimum when the later volume covering the fixed festivals appears. It will, therefore, be an advantage to postpone the more detailed examination of the material until this is available. Meanwhile, it may be noted for the information of the student that this volume, in addition to Shrovetide, Easter and attendant observances, Ascensiontide and Whitsuntide, covers movable festivals not dependent on Easter, and also some harvest customs.

Evans' Recent Advances in Physiology

Fifth edition, revised by Dr. W. H. Newton. Pp. xii + 500. (London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., 1936.) 15s.

SUCCESSIVE editions of a successful text-book are apt to lose something of their freshness. New wine is added to the dregs of the old, and though the store of knowledge grows, its flavour deteriorates. Books which deal with the recent advances of science cannot be compounded in this way, and each new edition must represent a fresh vintage.

"Recent Advances in Physiology" was first written by Lovatt Evans in 1925, and three new editions have been written by the same author. W. H. Newton has written the fifth edition. There is very little left in the book that has survived from the first edition. One of the chapters has the same title and some of the same figures, but the rest of the book is the new wine of physiological advance. Lovatt Evans has contributed an introduction, and a chapter on the metabolism of cardiac muscle. Newton has written new chapters on carbonic anhydrase, the oxygen supply of the foetus, the sex hormones, chemical transmission at nerve endings, the spinal reflex, the secretion of urine, and the nervous control of micturition and defaecation. He has rewritten the chapters on the coronary circulation, the carotid sinus, carbon dioxide in the blood, and on conduction and excitation in nerve. The publishers are to be congratulated on having discovered a physiologist with the gifts, and the energy, to prolong the vigorous life of this well-known text-book for advanced students.