

Economists and the Public:

a Study of Competition and Opinion. By Prof. W. H. Hutt. Pp. 377. (London: Jonathan Cape, Ltd., 1936.) 15s. net.

PROF. HUTT has obviously enjoyed the preparation of this book. There are few writers on economics or its applications in social and political problems from Adam Smith, J. S. Mill, Herbert Spencer and Ricardo to J. M. Keynes, J. A. Hobson, W. Lippmann, H. Levy, H. J. Laski, Bertrand Russell and others of our own day at whose teachings he does not direct some shrewd blows. The charge of anonymous criticism which he condemns in Prof. Pigou's "Theory of Unemployment" can scarcely be brought against Prof. Hutt, who rarely fails to specify exactly the writer or teacher responsible for the views he criticizes.

It would be unfair, however, to represent this book as purely provocative or destructive in its criticism. Quite apart from the merits of its able presentation of a case for the competitive system based on much sounder arguments than those of the political platform or press, it is a most stimulating book to all who are concerned with social and economic questions, and particularly with the way in which scientific thought can penetrate society and be integrated into action and policy able to control the destructive forces which threaten it to-day. What Prof. Hutt has to say about the influence of custom on thought, the corruption of opinion, on plausibility and its dangers, on liberty, the basis of authority in opinion, and the independence of university teaching has implications which are very far from being limited to those primarily concerned with economics.

The book is never dull or superficial, and the ideal of economic liberty with equality of opportunity which Prof. Hutt's study of the competitive or *laissez-faire* system leads him to uphold has claims on the attention of all who retain their faith in reason. It can be recommended to all scientific workers who are facing the social consequences of their work, if only for the indications of basic principles to be applied in their thought on such questions and of the pitfalls to be avoided. R. B.

The Book of the Aeroplane

By Capt. J. Laurence Pritchard. Third edition. Pp. x+254+24 plates. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1935.) 7s. 6d. net.

CAPT. PRITCHARD has succeeded in putting into this comparatively small book almost everything that the general reader wants to know about the aeroplane. He is to be congratulated also on the clear and interesting manner in which he explains such things as the distribution of pressure on the wing of an aeroplane, the functions of the various component parts, the controls, the problems involved in obtaining high altitude, high speed and long range, and the ground organization on flying routes. Chapter iii, "How an Aeroplane Flies", is, in particular, a model of clear exposition.

The author of a book of this kind, dealing with a science which is advancing with startling rapidity, suffers from the handicap that his work must always

be a little out of date, even on the day of publication. This, the third edition (1935) of a work first published in 1926, takes us down to the date of Miss Jean Batten's flight from Port Darwin to Lympne, April 1935. That is the last entry in the list of famous flights which is a valuable feature of the book. The reviewer was a little disappointed to find no mention of the present very elaborate weather forecasting service for aviation, in the chapters dealing with "The Great Airways of the World" and "Safety in the Air"; but that was the only fault he had to find with this very interesting and useful book.

Collected Papers of Charles Sanders Peirce

Edited by Charles Hartshorne and Paul Weiss. Vol. 6: Scientific Metaphysics. Pp. x+462. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1935.) 21s. net.

THIS valuable addition to the collection of Peirce's writings illustrates the extreme variety and creative power of the great American philosopher. Among the notable contributions contained in this volume are the series of articles which first appeared in the *Monist* and were so much appreciated by William James. These articles refer to the doctrines of Peirce on chance (tychism), on continuity (synechism) and on love (agapism). Around these articles, the editors have collected and published a wealth of notes, additions and studies ranging from logistics to telepathy, and showing the diverse interests of their author. This new volume will greatly assist the reader in forming an adequate judgment on Peirce's thought and on the historical background of contemporary logic and methodology. T. G.

Il nucleo atomico

Per Franco Rasetti. (Trattato generale di fisica a Cura del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.) Pp. ii+232+3 plates. (Bologna: Nicola Zanichelli, 1936.) 50 lire.

IN this book, readers of Italian should find a very convenient, up-to-date and trustworthy summary of the more important aspects of radioactivity and their theoretical explanation in terms of wave mechanics. It is particularly well illustrated, and the subject matter is set forth in a direct and pleasing manner. It should form a handy guide for quick reference; but, on the other hand, it does not contain those long lists of references and footnotes which make the works of English writers in this field so valuable. L. F. B.

Bird Flight

Written and designed by Gordon C. Aymar. Pp. xii+234. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd., 1936.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE main feature of this American book is the series of some two hundred 'action' pictures of flying birds by various photographers, including the author. Many of them have appeared before, but they make a remarkable collection, containing much of interest and much of beauty. The text is undistinguished: it gives a brief popular account under the heads of evolution, biology, migration and aerodynamics.