

brief and compact, covering as it does a wide range of topics: rainfall, off-flows (or run-offs) and storage capacities; flood discharges and spillway capacities; masonry gravity dams; single arch masonry dams; multiple arch and reinforced concrete dams; earth, hydraulic-fill and rock-fill dams; regulation of storage and reservoir features (including power stations); methods of construction and treatment of water for domestic supplies. In addition to these technical matters, the author finds space to conclude with what he terms an Engineer's Odyssey, being an account of a tour around the dams and reservoirs of Great Britain. Having occupied the post of chief engineer in the Public Health Department of the Government of Bengal, Mr. Williams naturally gives prominence to water storage installations in India, but his survey is representative of the most modern practice in other countries. There are a number of diagrams and some photographs.

B. C.

Philosophy and Psychology

Theory and Art of Mysticism

By Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee. Pp. xvi+308. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1937.) 15s. net.

A BOOK on Oriental mysticism—which being traditional is essentially sound—is nowadays of an actual as well as of a general interest. Europe is suffering to-day from crude and brutal mysticisms; obsessed by an apparently overpowering need of spiritual surrender; the desire for a crazy submission to 'leaders' with a false mythological halo and a perverted racial or nationalistic background. The understanding of how this mental attitude has come upon us in our Western world, what it means, and what it portends for the future, is perhaps the most vital problem of modern social science.

This book, written by one of India's foremost scholars, himself fully in sympathy with the mystical point of view, will be a great help towards the understanding of mysticism in general. The chapters which deal with the "training in the art of contemplation" will assist us in grasping the inner attitude of the mystic. Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee has already established a world-wide reputation as an economist. He is also a distinguished scholar in social science. The width of outlook and the richness of literary and factual evidence save the work from the one-sidedness from which a piece of special pleading might suffer. The introductory chapters on the foundations of religion, on its primitive manifestations, on magic and ritual, reveal the writer's competence in dealing with anthropological problems. The discussion of the relation between religion and economic life is of special interest because here his appreciation of mysticism and his professional knowledge mingle and cross-fertilize each other. The book will therefore be of value to the student in political science, the economist, and also of course to the philosopher concerned with the history of religion.

B. M.

The Philosophy of Relativity

By Prof. A. P. Ushenko. Pp. 208. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1937.) 8s. 6d. net.

So many books have been written on this important subject that one may almost doubt whether anything really new can be said about it. Yet Prof. Ushenko succeeds in being both interesting and new, thanks to his method of treatment of the theory of relativity. To begin with, he wants philosophers to understand what the mathematics of relativity mean: so in Chapters ii and vi he gives a step-by-step deduction of the main equations of relativity. Then he goes on to give a critical account of the meaning of these equations. He bases his discussion on the fact that events are described by dispositional characteristics, and that they must have an essence which is distinct from these characteristics. For him, this essence is a fusion of space with time, thus rejecting physical substance as an alternative category of natural philosophy, and involving an attitude which is antagonistic to the new positivistic tendencies.

T. G.

Physics

Electrolytic Condensers:

their Properties, Design and Practical Uses. By Philip R. Coursey. Pp. viii+172+10 plates. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1937.) 10s. 6d. net.

THOUGH the development of the electrolytic condenser goes back quite a long time, it is only in recent years—mainly through the demand of the wireless industry—that they have reached their present important position. Mr. Coursey's book is the first one published in English on this subject. It is, in the first place, intended for the prospective user, that is, for designers of apparatus incorporating such condensers.

This explains the mode of treatment adopted—in combination with the restraint which the author had to impose on himself as technical director of a firm manufacturing these condensers. We find a bare minimum of information on the physico-chemical processes underlying the action of the condenser, a general survey of the various types of construction and of their electric properties, and a fairly detailed description of the methods used for testing and of the points which have to be considered when selecting a condenser for some definite purpose. The electric properties in question are illustrated by numerous curves, many of which are characteristic; all are, however, presented in a way which makes identification with definite types of condensers or experimental conditions impossible. In order to reach as wide a public as possible a rather elementary mode of presentation has been adopted. There are few references to patents or literature, those given dealing nearly all with circuit problems.

The book will be definitely useful to the research worker who wishes to employ this type of condenser in his experimental apparatus.

A. B.