

Tables Annuelles Internationales de Constantes et Données numériques :

International Annual Tables of Constants and Numerical Data. Vol. 11 (Years 1931-1934.) Part 1 (Sections 1-25). Pp. xvi+492+xv-xxv. (Paris : Hermann et Cie. ; New York : McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1937.)

THESE sections contain very complete numerical data on molecular spectra of diatomic and of polyatomic molecules. In addition, the derived quantities—electronic levels, fundamental vibration frequencies, anharmonic coefficients, moments of inertia, atomic distances, linkage force constants, and dissociation energies—are presented in an accessible and systematic way, and many of the relationships explained by potential energy curves. The tables will prove invaluable to both physicists and chemists interested in the problems of molecular structure, and the simplicity of the arrangement will give confidence to those who may hesitate before attempting to seek the solution to a query in the complexities of the original literature. To the critical survey of molecular spectra is appended a bibliography and element-index of the numerous papers on atomic spectra which have appeared in the period 1931-34.

Peter Kürten :

a Study in Sadism. By George Godwin. Pp. 60. (London : The Acorn Press, 1938.) 5s. net.

IN "Peter Kürten", George Godwin has given us an account of one of the most horrible series of crimes in history. Peter Kürten, who was a sadist of the worst type, kept Düsseldorf in a state of terror. His record of crime went back to his childhood, when he pushed two boy friends off a raft on the river and drowned them. When tried, he was charged with ten murders and convicted of nine of them. The medico-legal experts came to the conclusion that the Düsseldorf 'monster' was suffering from no organic mental disease or from any functional mental disease, and was therefore responsible in law for his crimes.

Reading, Writing and Speech Problems in Children : a Presentation of Certain Types of Disorders in the Development of the Language Faculty. By Prof. Samuel Torrey Orton. (Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures.) Pp. 215. (London : Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1937.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS book contains the third of the Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures. The writer gives an account of his well-known work on disorders of the language faculty in children. He discusses the various disorders of language found in the adult as a basis for considering the language disorders of children. The work is based on his very wide clinical experience of ten years, combined with pathological material. He also gives the results of therapeutic efforts based on this work, and shows that many children with speech defects have derived benefit. The work is a most valuable addition to our knowledge of speech defects not only in children but also in adults.

An Elementary Treatise on Statically Indeterminate Stresses

By Prof. J. I. Parcel and Prof. G. A. Maney. Second edition. Pp. xvi+432. (New York : John Wiley and Sons, Inc. ; London : Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1936.) 25s. net.

THE continuous attack made during recent years on the problems of indeterminate structures and the heavy labours involved in all rational computations of such types necessitate the careful study of the scope and function of different methods, with a view to effective selection. The first edition of this book was finely characterized by a well-balanced consideration of the various methods of attack, and this second edition incorporates extensions that include the new and useful Cross method, and special adaptations of the slope deflection method. The re-written chapter on rigid frames includes a good treatment of the multi-storied building, but does not refer to the work of the British Steel Structures Research Committee. All illustrative examples are worked with great clearness, and in its scope and arrangement the book is excellently designed for the student who intends to use structural theory.

Plato's Conception of Philosophy

By Dr. H. Gauss. Pp. xxii+272. (London : Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1937.) 6s. net.

THE author of this ably written book is right in considering philosophy less as a body of results than as a mode of life. Owing probably to his wish to defend this conception, he restricts his inquiry into Plato's doctrines to his attitude towards epistemology, ethics and life in general. On these points Dr. Gauss has many useful suggestions to make which may serve to complete the traditional interpretation of Plato that has become part of British philosophy. Besides the scholarly interest of this work, to which Prof. Taylor contributes a striking preface, there is an attempt to show that philosophy is not a purely academic pursuit. The success of this plea will depend in large measure on the use of the author's method for the interpretation of other aspects of philosophy and of its history.

T. G.

The Definition of Psychology :

an Introduction to Psychological Systems. By Dr. Fred S. Keller. (Century Psychology Series.) Pp. viii+111. (New York and London : D. Appleton-Century Co., Inc., 1937.) 4s. 6d. net.

THIS volume gives a very good account of the growth of the conception of psychology through the years, from the early days through the work of Titchener and up to the most recent work of the behaviourists and finally the *Gestalt* school. Psychology is becoming more objective and standing more on its own feet with less dependence on physiology. It is more genetic and comparative, and occupies itself more with individual differences, and with abnormal psychology. There is a strong flavour of behaviourism about the author's views, tinged with a respect for the *Gestalt* school.