

difficult. But Mr. Ward—and Prof. Bernal, with his stimulating preface—have produced something at once original and charming.

F. I. G. R.

#### Physics To-day

By John A. Clark, Frederick Russell Gorton and Francis W. Sears. Pp. vi+634+x. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1939.) 8s. 6d. net.

ON account of the differences in the educational systems of the two countries, an American text-book of elementary physics can seldom be used as a text-book in Great Britain. There can be no doubt, however, of the usefulness of the present volume, by three American physicists, to all teachers of elementary physics. The fundamental laws and principles are set out briefly and simply with plenty of illustration. The outstanding feature of the book is the vitality and up-to-dateness of the linking of physical principles with laboratory experiments and with everyday life. With the increasing use of the epidiascope, the book is worth buying for the 750 illustrations alone. They consist of some conventional diagrams to illustrate physical principles together with many diagrams and actual photographs of simple experiments in progress, photographs of practical applications and portraits of all the famous physicists. As a typical example, the subject of levers is illustrated by a photograph of two men using a long pole to raise a car which has sunk up to the axles in mud. The picture is so clear that an estimate can be made of the mechanical advantage. The lever principle in the typewriter and in commercial scales of the newer pattern without springs is the subject of two very clear diagrams amongst a total of fourteen illustrations on levers.

The mixing of philosophy with physics and a loose use of the word 'why' is in striking contrast with the general excellence of the book. The reader is told that "you, like people of all times, want to know the 'why' of things. . . . Physics . . . aims to give you an understanding of both the 'how' and the 'why' of them". Chapter I starts with the question: "Is a solid body *really* solid?" However, the mixing of philosophy with physics, like the mixing of theology with ethics, is a matter of taste, and the volume can be very strongly recommended to all teachers of elementary physics in schools and colleges.

W. H. G.

#### Electricity

By Dr. T. F. Wall. (Home University Library of Modern Knowledge, No. 190.) Pp. 256. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd., 1939.) 2s. 6d. net.

DR. WALL'S interesting survey of the principles and applications of electricity is a valuable addition to the Home University Library of Modern Knowledge. Even the most recent applications are included. In spite of the condensation essential for the treatment of so comprehensive a subject in so small a space, there is no superficiality. The general reader will here find a trustworthy guide to the remarkable penetration of the use of electricity into every sphere of human activity. Food, clothing,

housing, hygiene, health, transport and entertainment are all adequately covered. Simple calculations can be made by the aid of the appendix. The volume would also be excellent vacation reading for university students about to study physics in a degree course, or for those specializing in biological subjects, where electrical apparatus is proving increasingly useful.

W. H. G.

#### Psychology

##### Psychotherapy

By Dr. Paul Schilder. Pp. 344. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 15s. net.

DR. PAUL SCHILDER has given us a very good account of his views on psychotherapy. Generally speaking, his views are psychoanalytically determined, although he is by no means an orthodox Freudian according to the purists. At the same time he incorporates just as much of the work of Jung and Adler as he thinks necessary in his psychotherapeutic technique. He dismisses relaxation as scarcely usable in the everyday approach to the patient. We think this is a pity, as this method does play a part in psychotherapy even although it may be largely suggestive in application. We do not agree with the statement that "the hospital situation makes the adaptation too simple for him" when referring to the psychoneurotic.

##### A Manual of Psychology

By Dr. G. F. Stout. Revised, in collaboration with the author, by C. A. Mace; with an Appendix by Dr. R. H. Thouless. Pp. xix+708. (London: University Tutorial Press, Ltd., 1938.) 12s. 6d.

TO those of us who were brought up on "Stout" it is a great pleasure to see a fifth edition. There is no alteration from the fourth edition except the addition of an appendix on Gestalt by Dr. Thouless and a note giving Prof. Stout's views.

Dr. Thouless gives a very good brief account of *Gestalttheorie*. Prof. Stout accepts Gestalt psychology in general, but is not satisfied with the Gestalt psychology of sense-perception. The Gestalt psychologists seem to deny much importance to past experience in perceptual processes and to neglect the difference between sensation and perception.

##### Personality in Formation and Action

By Dr. William Healy. (Thomas W. Salmon Memorial Lectures.) Pp. 204. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1938.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE Salmon Memorial Lectures for 1937 were delivered by Dr. W. Healy, director of the Judge Baker Guidance Centre in Boston. Personality is defined as "an integrated system of habitual adjustments to the environment, particularly the social environment".

The author gives a very competent account of the development of the personality in childhood, its actions and reactions in adulthood, and the wider implications which are met with in national and international life.