

edition. It describes condensing plant, feed heating, and water treatment plants, and then deals with electrical machines and equipment. Supplementary chapters are devoted to plant-testing organization, station costs, fire-fighting and air raid precautions. It will at once be seen that the division of the material between Volume 1 and Volume 2 is illogical, as it would have been preferable to have had all the main steam and water components in one volume, leaving the second mainly for electrical plant.

It is doubtful if anyone inexperienced in power station practice could derive much benefit from reading this volume. Individual chapters are too elementary and inconsequential to be of value to well-informed specialists. Practically every one of them is a jumble of descriptive matter, empirical formulae and so-called tables of data. The arrangement is haphazard, and it appears that the author merely introduced tables of data at random.

Power station engineers are, however, a class apart, and many of them may find the volume acceptable because of the numerous references to troubles which have been experienced, and the descriptions of means whereby their recurrence can be prevented. A certain pleasure is also to be derived from the evident enthusiasm and energy of the author which is revealed throughout the work. His benevolent interest in the humanitarian side of management is frequently brought out in a commendable manner.

Alternators, transformers and reactors, switch-gear and cables, which constitute the main components of the electrical equipment of a power station, are described tolerably clearly, and are illustrated by familiar examples from everyday British practice. Station auxiliaries, their connexions and methods of supply, have constituted a subject of controversy for many years, and a good deal of useful information is provided regarding the numerous alternatives, but the author does not come to any specific conclusion as to order of merit.

Considerable emphasis is laid on electrical protective equipment for power station plant, and the chapter dealing with this subject would serve as a useful introduction to protective gear installation and maintenance.

Another subject of first-rate importance is commissioning and testing of plant. Here again, the relevant chapter provides good introductory matter.

Power station capital and operating costs reveal in condensed and generally understandable form the economic efficiency. The short chapter on this subject gives guidance as to the best subdivision of costs, and the examples provided are of value in that certain of them are related to definite and fairly recent years, so that anyone wishing to proceed further with the analysis can relate the costs to the appropriate basic prices of materials of construction.

Most of the illustrations are good and interesting. Many of the line diagrams in both the steam and electrical sections are clear, and provide the reader with much better information than does the context. This is particularly the case in regard to Fig. 386, in which a typical metering arrangement for a power station and its interconnecting circuits is given. This diagram is clear, but the associated descriptive matter is relatively inadequate.

Each chapter has appended to it an extensive bibliography; but the author has shown no discrimination in his choice of the material included in these bibliographies, and has not even taken the trouble to arrange the items in a logical, convenient manner.

After studying this volume, the reviewer was irresistibly reminded of occasional visits to the Caledonian Market. There one sees heterogeneous collections of more or less useful articles, and occasionally there is something to be found of real value. There is a place in the scheme of things for both Caledonian Markets and works of the type now considered.

C. W. MARSHALL.

## A DICTIONARY OF PHILOSOPHY

The Dictionary of Philosophy

Edited by Dagobert D. Runes. Pp. viii + 343. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1944.) 27s. 6d. net.

THIS is a single volume, easy to handle and read, containing explanations of philosophical terms and outline accounts of schools of thought, special subjects and individual thinkers. It looks as though the efforts of a number of specialists had been put together in alphabetical order with little editing. Many of the articles are just right; for example, that on 'Hegelianism', and most of the definitions of Aristotelian terms. A few articles are too brief for clarity; many are too long and try to do too much.

The article on 'Scholasticism' aims at stating the name of every writer, medieval and later, so that the subject-matter of their writing is completely lost. Worst of all, it gives no references. To allot six columns to Husserl's 'Phenomenology' as against three for 'Kantianism' is out of all proportion. Symbolic logic spreads all over the place. So much so, that if an innocent biologist (who spends his life classifying) were to look up 'Class' and 'Class Concept', he would find something he could not understand until he read the text-book. After he had read it, he would discover it was no use to him. There is not even a cross-reference to 'Kind', where Mill, who has something useful to say, is referred to. Political theory comes off badly. The article on 'Political Philosophy' tries to say everything and has no references; those on 'Duty', 'Right' and 'Natural Law' are scarcely adequate; that on 'Liberty' omits the political sense; there is nothing under 'Sovereignty'; nor under the names: Dante, Marsilius, Bodin, Hooker, Burke, Paine, Malthus. Most surprising of all, in a book from the United States, there is an article on 'Aristocracy' but none on 'Democracy'. The treatment of psychology is patchy.

Very few British philosophers appear to be known across the Atlantic. Of the thinkers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Cumberland, Joseph Butler and Richard Price are absent, and Cudworth is the only Platonist to appear. At least a dozen nineteenth and twentieth century British names are absent that are up to the standard of those included. The treatment of Greek thinkers, apart from Plato and Aristotle, is meagre and conventional. Aristippus, who is little more than a myth, appears, along with a wholly mythical grandson; but not Hippocrates, who profoundly influenced Greek and all subsequent thought. Euclid is there but not Aristarchus or Archimedes. Indian and Chinese philosophy are dealt with; how adequately the reviewer does not know. Casual inspection seems to show that in the matter of ambiguity of terms the Chinese have little to learn from Europeans.

A really ruthless editor could turn the material in this quite useful book into a very valuable work of reference.

A. D. RITCHIE.