

The Penrose Annual

A Review of the Graphic Arts. Edited by R. B. Fishenden. Vol. 43. Pp. xii+140+40+139 plates. (London: Percy Lund, Humphries and Co., Ltd., 1949.) 21s. net.

“THE Penrose Annual” is an old friend of all connected with the printing industry, and its return after an absence of nine years is very welcome. This, the thirty-third volume, follows the well-established lines of its predecessors, which in some ways is a pity, because in the nine years elapsing between the appearance of Volume 42 and Volume 43 the printing industry has had experiences which should be recorded. And where more appropriately than in “Penrose’s”? The record is desirable not only for historical reasons, but also because much valuable experience was gained in solving problems which arise in an industry in total war, and this should not be lost.

The Annual consists of its usual four parts—“General Articles”, “Technical Articles”, specimens of contemporary printing and advertisements; and each contributes to the usefulness and interest of the book as “A Review of the Graphic Arts”, a usefulness which does not diminish as the years pass. The “General Articles” are concerned mainly with typography and design, illuminated by the outstanding contribution of H. J. Deverson, “Photography in Battledress”. The “Technical Articles” cover a wide field, and give promise that there may be outstanding technical developments in the printing industry before long. The printing specimens, covering all the major processes, are excellent in quality and show that British printing is second to none. Anyone who has an interest in good printing and in the ways in which it is produced will find much enjoyment in this volume—now and in twenty years time. It is excellent value for a guinea.

If old friendship permits of frankness, it is to be hoped that one or two of the authors, before they make their contributions for Volume 44, will take a little time off from printing to read Sir Ernest Gower’s “Plain Words”. There is at least one paragraph in Volume 43 which is good enough for *Punch*.

Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society

New Series, Vol. 47: Containing the Papers read before the Society during the Sixty-eighth Session, 1946–1947. Pp. xx+300. (London: Harrison and Sons, Ltd., 1947.) 30s. net.

IT is not infrequently asserted that we are unable, in these days, to ‘afford’ pure knowledge, that it is an intellectual luxury, that it should be strictly rationed, and so forth. Luckily, in addition to *ad hoc* protests against a view so shocking, there occur certain periodic implied reactions; the appearance of a new volume of the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* is one of these, and deserves a special welcome.

There is little continuity to be discerned in this collection; indeed, it is scarcely to be expected; the value lies in its ‘forge-like’ character, wherein thought-stuff is hammered out, fashioned, tempered and annealed. For example, the president’s address provides some teleological clothing for E. S. Russell’s functional biology; another contributor presents an exceptionally sensitive view of the role of pain in creative activity, while further on we meet with a penetrating analysis of existentialism in terms

(largely) of its historical background. Kierkegaard, typical of a ‘crisis-philosopher’, fastened upon the story of the immolation of Isaac a nineteenth-century reflexion of the extreme credal position assumed ages before by Tertullian. The last paper is a most interesting exposition of the tentative method of approach to logical definition. Thus, in these ways, and in many more, we are refreshed and stimulated; but above all, it is good to know that some people still ponder for pondering’s sake, and for no other reason.

F. I. G. RAWLINS

The Making of Scientific Management

By L. Urwick and E. F. L. Brech. Vol. 3: The Hawthorne Investigations. Pp. x+225+8 plates. (London: Management Publications Trust, 1948.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE findings and interpretation of what are known as the Hawthorne Investigations, carried out in the United States for the Western Electric Co. at its Hawthorne Plant, are of great interest to all concerned with problems of industrial relations and productivity in Great Britain, where the human factor is frequently the decisive one with which management has to deal. These findings, however, have been presented in seven main publications, four of which deal directly with the research activities and their results, while the other three use certain aspects of those findings to illustrate wider industrial and sociological problems of our time, such as that of leadership in a free society. This volume draws freely on those sources, giving a connected critical account which should be welcomed by those to whom the original volumes (some of which are out of print) are inaccessible. It will give most managers a sufficiently detailed account of the investigations, even if perforce some of the stimulus and vitality of Elton Mayo’s and T. N. Whitehead’s original books are lacking; and the brief notes on the original volumes which are included will direct those who wish to study the findings in more detail to the appropriate source.

R. B.

Report on Fungus, Bacterial and other Diseases of Crops in England and Wales for the Years 1943–1946

By W. C. Moore. (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Bulletin No. 139.) Pp. vi+90+12 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1948.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE number of plant diseases, or at least the measure of man’s awareness of them, is constantly increasing. Mr. W. C. Moore records twenty-six new diseases and twenty-one new host records during the four years 1943–46. It is possible, however, that only one of these new enemies—bacterial canker of tomato—is likely to add a serious challenge to plant pathologists. The disease, caused by the organism *Corynebacterium michiganense*, has appeared on outdoor tomatoes, mostly in the south-east of England, where some of the outbreaks have involved the death of considerable numbers of plants. The bulletin, however, does more than record the appearance of new diseases; it also assesses the status of pathogens which are recognized already. There is a growing tendency for advisory plant pathologists to become more truly quantitative in their estimates of disease, and Mr. Moore draws freely from the reports of his advisory colleagues and other collaborators. Graphs show the comparative phenology of potato blight in Cornwall, Devon and Yorkshire. Maps