

Stereoptics

An Introduction. By Leslie P. Dudley. Pp. 112. (London: MacDonald and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1951.) 15s. net.

THIS is a fascinating little book which should prove excellent relaxation for the physicist specializing in other fields and a good introduction for the serious student of the subject of stereoptics. The author, who is the originator of the apt term 'stereoptics' to describe the theory and applications of stereoscopic principles, particularly in the field of photographic optics, is also the technical director of Stereoptics, Ltd., London, and has played a large part in Great Britain in developing new processes of stereoscopy.

The book is chiefly concerned with the application of stereoptics to photography, cinematography and radiography, the first part dealing with general principles and processes which require some form of viewing device in order to perceive the stereoscopic effect, and the second part with a discussion of some of the more important auto-stereoscopic processes. An auto-stereoscopic photograph is one which exhibits a three-dimensional or solid effect without the use of a viewing device by the observer. Such photographs are now familiar objects, but it is good to be reminded that it was in 1902 that Frederic Ives filed his classic patent application for the first practical method, probably based on a suggestion of Berthier's, in 1896, of producing an auto-stereoscopic photograph. The various parallax stereogram and panoramagram processes and developments which have since been patented and used successfully are clearly described in an attractive and interesting, though technical, manner.

The author's own important contributions are modestly mentioned. The final chapter in the book deals with stereoscopic radiography, the use of which offers great potential advantages both industrially and medically. In this field the author can claim to be an authority, and his enthusiasm and optimism about the rapid advance and promising future of three-dimensional pictorial presentation should win over even the most sceptical of readers.

S. WEINTROUB

British Journal of Applied Physics

Editor: Dr. H. R. Lang. Vol. 2 and Supplement No. 1, 1951. Pp. v+370+viii+96+vi. (London: Institute of Physics, 1951.)

THE decision of the Institute of Physics in 1949 to commence a separate monthly periodical, the *British Journal of Applied Physics*, in addition to its *Journal of Scientific Instruments*, has been more than amply justified judging by the excellence of the contributions received and by the welcome given to the new *Journal* by physicists generally and more particularly by those employed in industry. In Vol. 2 the high standard set by the preceding volume is, if anything, surpassed.

In addition to the twelve monthly issues, containing special articles, conference reports and original contributions, the volume includes a supplement of some ninety pages on the physics of lubrication, in which the proceedings of the conference on that subject held in Manchester by the Institute and the British Society of Rheology during 1950 are reprinted. Four other conferences—on the aspects of fluid flow, spectroscopy, the development and application of Fourier methods in crystal-structure

analysis, and the texture and structure of metals—form the subjects of special reports. Three of the nine special articles will be of particular interest to teachers of physics in technical institutions: these deal with the rationalized M.K.S. system of units, procedure in industrial physics and its implications for education, and impressions of a discussion on technical universities. The numerous original contributions, on the average four per issue, cover a very wide field, but nearly all have direct applications in industry.

The editor and advisory committee are to be congratulated for maintaining in these difficult times such a high standard, both as regards content and production.

Science and the Christian Man

By Charles E. Raven. Pp. 60. (London: S. C. M. Press, Ltd., 1952.) 4s. 6d. net.

THIS book consists of six broadcasts delivered by Canon C. E. Raven. It suffers from the unavoidable defects of all broadcasts—the covering of too much ground with too few words, of using insufficiently established premises and of leaving a multitude of loose ends. Such a book should be regarded as a provoker of thought rather than an authoritative manual. All will agree with the author that the Christian man cannot say no to science, which is a great achievement of the human spirit, and from which the man of to-day can scarcely stand aside: but the treatment of the relation of science to the beliefs of the Christian is less satisfactory. Canon Raven dismisses almost all the miraculous element in the Christian evidences, and indeed seems to select for credence only such passages from the Scriptures as suit his views; modern churchmen who think as he does will doubtless find the book much to their minds. On the other hand, Roman Catholics take a more stringent view of the interpretation of the Scriptures in a fashion other than literal; consequently Canon Raven's book will, for them, miss the point. This said, the book is to be commended. Many things are finely said, and few will read it without discovering in it some new facet of the great problem it discusses.

F. SHERWOOD TAYLOR

The Southern Marches

By H. J. Massingham. (Regional Books Series.) Pp. xv+368+25 plates. (London: Robert Hale, Ltd., 1952.) 21s. net.

THE Southern Marches—the southern borderland between England and Wales—comprises the region between the Wye and the Usk, between the Bristol Channel and north Herefordshire. Apart from places like Monmouth, Tintern, Chepstow, Symonds Yat, Ross, Raglan and the Channel of the Lower Wye, these southern marches are little known. In this book the late Mr. H. J. Massingham set out to bridge this gap in knowledge, and he succeeded very worthily. The ground is surveyed not only topographically but also in such aspects of the region as its architecture, its agriculture and its atmosphere. Local 'worthies' are given generous attention, while issues arising out of the author's travels are freely ventilated. Occasionally Mr. Massingham's views, like his prose, are extravagant, but these merely serve to accentuate the virility of a book which those who know and love the Southern Marches will treasure for years to come. "The landscape between Tintern and Chepstow" will indeed "continue to operate as tho' Paradise had never been lost". T. H. H.