

voyagers; they give the layman a more vivid picture than a whole book of expert knowledge. An account of hunting with nets and spears is excellent. The book ends with a brief chapter—one might almost call it an appendix—summarizing in five pages the physical anthropology of African pygmy peoples, by Raoul Hartweg, and a list of the anthropological results of the expedition. The book serves to whet our appetite for the more serious and scientific work which will no doubt follow in due course.

Atom Harvest

By Leonard Bertin. Pp. 253+23 photographs. (London: Martin Secker and Warburg, Ltd., 1955.) 20s. net.

THIS is a remarkably fine account of a complicated field in which the reader is not asked to worry over-much about scientific or engineering detail at any stage, but nevertheless acquires an accurate broad understanding of the principles involved. Mr. L. Bertin is to be congratulated on accomplishing very adequately on the British side what Mr. Gordon Dean achieved in respect of efforts in the nuclear field in the United States. He considers at some length the history of the thorny questions of collaboration between the two countries, and many readers will be grateful for his forthright way of tackling the subject.

To the general reader interested in a field of paramount importance to the future of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, this is a book which can be highly commended. Even the specialist must find within its pages much to interest him, since few can be familiar with all the many facets of the vast programme set forth in it.

In one respect the reviewer found the book fell short of expectation. More consideration should have been given to the present trends in tracer research, and its rich promise for the future of scientific effort in Britain might have been more thoroughly examined. This need not have meant a longer book as the space could have been saved elsewhere without appreciable loss to the reader; for example, the profusion of discussions set forth could have been pruned severely. S. C. CURRAN

Metals Reference Book

By Dr. Colin J. Smithells. Second edition. Vol. 1: Pp. xvi+532+17. Vol. 2: Pp. xv+533-967+17. (London: Butterworths Scientific Publications; New York: Interscience Publishers, Inc., 1955.) £8 8s. net the set.

NO one can deny the usefulness of this book, nor the attractiveness of the volumes, although the cost is almost prohibitive for the individual. The aim has been to supply a collection of data relating to metallurgy and metal physics, and to a large extent this has been done in tabular or diagrammatic form.

The scope is wide, in fact so wide in some respects that it encourages an impression that there are omissions. A large part of the subject-matter is fundamental data, such as mathematical formulæ, conversion factors, constants, thermo-chemical data, atomic characteristics, equilibrium diagrams, on crystallography and a considerable range of important physical properties, together with sections on metallography and mechanical properties. On the practical side, the topics include: fuels and refractories, foundry details, lubricants, corrosion, electroplating, and welding. It is the catholic nature of the selection

on these aspects that prompts the feeling that comparable subjects have been omitted.

The second edition has involved considerable revision of data, the rewriting of some sections, the addition of more material, and a more elaborate bibliography; resulting in its presentation in two volumes. A commendable point in this connexion is that both volumes contain the index. In all, this can be regarded as an essential reference book for metallurgists and others working with metals.

A. R. BAILEY

A History of the Classification of the Phylum Brachiopoda

By Helen Marguerite Muir-Wood. Pp. vii+124. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1955.) 20s.

THE Brachiopoda are an interesting group with a long fossil history, but their position in relation to other groups is not satisfactorily determined. In the past they have been associated with a number of the major phyla of the invertebrates. Perhaps the smaller group with which they have been linked most frequently is the Bryozoa, but the consensus of opinion now is to regard these as two separate phyla; indeed, some authorities suggest that the Brachiopoda should be subdivided into two phyla, but in this present work Dr. H. M. Wood prefers to regard the Inarticulata and the Articulata as classes. She has gone into the history of all these changes, starting with the first illustration of a member of the group by Conrad Gesner in 1565 but paying particular attention to them since 1785, the crucial date from the point of view of nomenclature.

This useful work is not intended as a definitive classification, but it is a fully documented presentation of the past and present position with regard to their classification. Subsequent workers will be grateful to Dr. Wood for this essential clearance that will enable detailed revision to be started so much more easily. In this, the relevant bibliography, carefully checked, and the full index will be most useful.

British Trade Unionism

Five Studies by P.E.P. New and revised edition. Pp. xi+199. (London: P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning), 1955.) 16s.

THIS new and revised edition appears in a new format, with five studies only, instead of the previous six. Though the framework has been retained and many passages are virtually unchanged, much of the book has been rewritten, and the first study, in particular, with its statistical analysis of the number, size and type of unions in Britain, has been brought up to date. While the book remains a most useful factual handbook, by omitting the sixth study, that of the implications for the trade unions of the changes in post-war Britain, it appears to have lost much of the value which the earlier edition possessed as a stimulus to the fresh thinking about the functions and organization of the trade unions under conditions of full employment. Such issues as the 'closed shop', the unofficial strike, the problems presented by the nationalized industries and the appropriateness of trade-union organization to present-day conditions and their implications, are not brought out in this new edition, which lacks accordingly much of the challenge which the former edition offered.