

A second half of the book goes into more intangible realms, with chapters on "Qualities of Leadership", "Organising", "Ideas", "Frustration", "Seeking Promotion". Here the author has endeavoured to synthesize the views expressed by his fifty high-level 'guinea-pigs', with an added measure of his own interpretation. Here his study is correspondingly more open to argument, to disagreement and to scepticism. Inevitably, the range of views on any one topic is wide and diversified; the author's own interpretative synthesis has offset the mutually contradictory elements, and he has tried to emphasize the practical value of his findings by a brief summary of points at the end of each chapter. Yet their very succinctness posits superficiality. To the novice on the brink of a career they may well serve as the modern counterpart of the once-famous Dale Carnegie aphorisms on self-advancement; to the serious and established reader they may perhaps usefully serve as reminders—a simple guide to checking whether executive responsibilities are being competently and constructively discharged. Objective and permanent values apart, in all the aspects covered the study makes interesting reading. E. F. L. BRECH

MECHANICS OF ELECTRONICS

Mechanical Design for Electronics Production

By John M. Carroll. Pp. xx+348. (London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, Ltd., 1956.) 49s.

IF we were to represent the activities of those engaged upon the development and application of electronic equipment by a Gaussian distribution, we would see a few advanced designers and specialists rising above a wide base of detailers and technicians.

Among these 'other ranks', there will be few who would not benefit by a perusal of the present volume. So much detail must usually be delegated to others that it is most desirable to have a wide dissemination of knowledge of good current practices.

The circuit and system designer who can find time to study this book will uncover much food for thought, particularly concerning production processes, where some of the details given are unlikely to be known to those who have not had considerable experience in a number of the departments of a modern factory. The relation between system or circuit sub-division and modular construction is presented particularly well.

A high standard of mechanical construction is essential to-day for military equipment, and in wave-guide systems a high degree of precision is required. These standards are not always found in laboratory-constructed equipment, and manufacture from the resulting 'prototypes' may be delayed by a further phase of production engineering which could be avoided or carried out at an earlier stage.

The organization of this book is interesting, as a method of putting forward up-to-date and comprehensive information in a field subject to rapid changes of technique. The author first published the material as a group of articles on mechanical design in the journal *Electronics* late in 1954, the contributions being made by some fourteen mechanical engineers experienced in the electronics industry.

As now published in 1956, the material has been re-arranged as chapters, and brought up to date with respect to mechanized assembly methods, automatic

testing and materials. The references are mainly to sources and proprietary names known in the United States, but a British reader will not find himself handicapped appreciably. The book could have been prepared from British sources, but it is doubtful if we have the editorial resources to execute it.

The contents cover a considerable field in adequate detail, with much reliance on photographic illustrations of processes and line drawings of mechanical design details. Attention is given to the importance of mechanical design, and to the space-planning of equipment layouts. Chassis layout is dealt with in detail.

Processes used in the fabrication of cabinets, chassis and small parts are described rather fully, wiring and soldering are dealt with, and components and assembly methods described. Useful technical information is provided on mechanical design details, rotary machines, materials and environmental factors.

D. L. JOHNSTON

NEAR-EASTERN ADVENTURES

Adventures in the Nearest East

By Cyrus H. Gordon. Pp. 192+23 plates. (London: Phoenix House, Ltd., 1957.) 25s. net.

THIS is a very readable book. It has not been written for the academic specialist who requires all the details carefully documented, but in a pleasant manner it conveys a lot of interesting archaeological information. The author knows what he is writing about and the result is a correct account of what he himself has seen and studied. For example, the chapter on the Dead Sea scrolls is an admirable account of the finds and their significance, though it is not intended to be in any way a detailed study of these important discoveries. Interspersed with the account of his journeys and digs, he gives us stories of such everyday trifles as how he had to play the part of an amateur doctor or oculist.

Prof. Gordon opens by telling his readers of his journeys in Edom and Moab, a land still little known, even under its new name of Transjordan. Other chapters deal with accounts of digs and of finds of works of art. The Ugarit Kingdom, which flourished during the Bronze Age in northern Syria, is still little known to the average archaeologist; yet it is of considerable importance. There a number of tablets have recently been unearthed, the language being akin to Phoenician and Hebrew. Many of the texts are mere business documents, others are of a ritual nature. A number record poetically the lives of the North Canaanite gods whom the Israelites are forbidden in the Old Testament to worship. But there appears also in some of these texts the indication of the beginning of an ethical religion such as we do not find again until it reappears with the early Hebrew prophets of the eighth century B.C. A chapter on the military correspondence of the last days of Judah gives a useful commentary on the immediately pre-exilic period there, and should be read alongside the Old Testament story. Final chapters deal with "The Fathers of Egypt" and "A World of Demons and Liliths". The work is well illustrated, and there are at the end a number of notes and a short bibliography. Many people, both archaeologists *de métier* and interested amateurs, will read Prof. Gordon's book with pleasure and profit. M. C. BURKITT