

efforts of colonial governments to devise for them administrative patterns in line with the aims of indirect rule. A handicap here was the paucity of ethnographic information on African political institutions and the consequent inadequacy of theoretical understanding of how they worked.

A beginning was made in the systematic study of the subject when, in 1940, Prof. Evans-Pritchard and I brought out a collection of essays describing a representative series of African political systems ("African Political Systems", edited by M. Fortes and E. E. Evans-Pritchard, 1940). The distinction between the centralized type and the segmentary type was there suggested. Post-war field research has so extended the range and quality of our ethnographic knowledge of Africa that this typology is now seen to be too broad. More thorough analysis of each type is now possible, and the present book makes a welcome beginning with this task. All the contributors belong to the post-war generation of social anthropologists. The six societies they deal with in the book were barely known before the Second World War. Certainly their indigenous political institutions could not then have been analysed with the technical proficiency and theoretical understanding shown by the editors and their fellow contributors.

The peoples described in the present book live in West Africa, the Sudan and East Africa. They vary from sedentary cultivators occupying clearly defined villages, like the Bwamba of Uganda, admirably described by Dr. Winter, to the transhumant cattle-keeping Dinka of the Sudan, whose complex social structure is skilfully elucidated by Dr. Lienhardt, and the widely dispersed, near-anarchic, Konkomba farmers and fighters of Ghana, described with great insight by the late Dr. David Tait, one of the editors. They differ widely in language, custom and belief. What they have in common is a segmentary political structure based on some form of kinship and descent group.

In addition to the six essays, there is a valuable introduction by the editors. They demonstrate that the segmentary type really includes a range of varieties. They propose a division into three groups, an important distinction being the manner in which the genealogical and local segments are constituted and combined into what they call "jural communities". The analysis of the economic, military, juridical and religious sanctions correlated with this classification is particularly instructive. The book is a significant addition to the growing body of field research on non-western political institutions. It is also, as Prof. Evans-Pritchard remarks in his preface, a fitting memorial to Dr. Tait, who died in a motor accident before it was published. M. FORTES

SOLID STATE PHYSICS

Solid State Physics

By Prof. Adrianus J. Dekker. Pp. xiv + 540. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1958.) 45s. net.

IN recent years various text-books on solid state physics have been published, not without some influence on each other. At first sight, particularly with respect to selection of topics, Prof. Dekker's book bears a likeness to that of Kittel. However, more careful inspection reveals a different appreciation of the various aspects of the subject. There is evidence of the skilled teacher of modern physics

with an awareness of the large range of mathematical ability among his student readers. The first nine chapters require little knowledge of the electronic characteristics of solids, beginning with a brief introduction to crystallography and moving all too rapidly through specific heats of solids, lattice defects, dislocation theory, dielectrics, ionic conduction and ferroelectricity. However, the presentation in each case is skilful enough to promote curiosity and wider reading in more specific texts. A further feature is the stressing of fundamentally important matters, for example the emphasis on the Debye theory of specific heats, though with proper indication of the more complex and, practically, almost unwieldy problem of lattice vibration spectra. To mention another chapter, that on ferroelectrics is lucidly written especially in the reference to the thermodynamic theory.

It is natural that the electronic properties of solids find a large place in this book. Non-polar crystals are emphasized, together with their applications in transistors. Complete chapters are devoted to luminescence and secondary electron emission, respectively, while the last part of the book deals with modern magnetism, inclusive of resonance phenomena and their importance in solid state research. If one looks for faults, and these are few, I feel that omission of dielectric breakdown might be remedied in the future and there might also be afforded a little more space for treatment of types of binding in solids.

Each chapter carries a number of exercises or problems; there are an adequate subject index and some useful appendixes. One more favourable comment must be added, about the surprisingly modest price of the volume compared with similar publications and with its equivalent price in the United States. G. F. J. GARLICK

NEW DRUGS USED BY PSYCHIATRISTS

The New Chemotherapy in Mental Illness

The History, Pharmacology and Clinical Experiences with Rauwolfia, Phenothiazine, Azacyclonol, Mephenesin, Hydroxyzine and Benactyzine Preparations. Edited by Dr. Hirsch L. Gordon. Pp. xviii + 762. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1958.) 12 dollars.

THIS book is a collection of 119 articles by 167 authors, the majority of whom are American psychiatrists, relating their personal experiences with one or several of the new drugs used in mental illness. The individual writers address themselves to the practising physician and give their impressions, views, recommendations and warnings based either on the material they may have had at their disposal or on their personal philosophical outlook. This leads to statements so contradictory that they become rather disconcerting. Thus one author states on p. 99 that combined therapy with chlorpromazine and reserpine produces a prohibitively high incidence of serious untoward effects, whereas another worker assures us on p. 397 that this combination lacks toxicity and side effects, and he recommends it (p. 400) in neuro-psychiatric treatment because of its "advantages over the use of either agent when employed alone". A third group of authors (p. 423) takes the intermediate view that the combination of the two drugs is probably not superior to the use of either drug