

World War without any organization or trained staff to meet them. The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force were perhaps more successful than was the Army in utilizing the services of civilians trained in the methods of social and applied psychology, and the psychiatrists in these Services dispersed their efforts less widely.

Many of the criticisms to which Dr. Ahrenfeldt makes reply appear to have arisen when the expertness of psychiatrists was called in question. For example, their participation in the selection of officers at War Office Selection Boards was controversial. A special position was claimed for the psychiatrist "as the only member of the Board with adequate scientific training and experience in the assessment of personality" (p. 66). Yet it could reasonably be doubted whether he was therewith fitted for the position claimed for him. The problems were new ones, and the immodest insistence by some psychiatrists of the superiority of their theories and techniques, in this and other matters, did damage to their reputation. However, in assessing the rights and wrongs of their claims, it should be remembered that the problems were important and urgent.

D. RUSSELL DAVIS

PHONETICS

Manual of Phonetics

Edited by L. Kaiser. Pp. xv+460. (Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company, 1957.) 38 guilders.

THIS book is divided into six parts, dealing respectively with the history of phonetics, the basal sciences of phonetics, phonetic research, phonetics in its relation to linguistics, phonetics in its relation to other sciences, and phonetics and the origin of speech. The twenty-eight chapters which make up these six parts have been contributed by thirty different authors (there are several collaborations), coming from fourteen different countries; they all write in English, sometimes in an English that is not very easy to follow. Curiously enough there is no contributor from Britain. The editor's introduction explains that the book is not addressed to a specialist audience, but is intended to provide a general introduction to the subject for such people as engineers, linguists, surgeons, psychologists, teachers, artists, and so on; and it is claimed that an all but complete survey of the field is provided. This, indeed, is what one would expect from a book entitled a 'manual'.

However, it is a disappointing compilation. It is certainly not a 'manual', in any sense, but is rather a collection of essays which have little unifying force behind them, and which are, moreover, of very varying worth. It does not provide anything like a complete survey of phonetics. The fundamentals of the subject are almost entirely missing: there is no detailed, systematic treatment anywhere of the basic categories of phonetic description, though such a treatment is needed for understanding many of the contributions; and there is no account of phonetic notation, apart from a few brief (and inaccurate) notes, at the beginning of the book, on the symbols used by the contributors (some of whom deviate unexpectedly from accepted practice). The languages taken into consideration fall very far short of being representative of the general range of human phonetic performance.

It is disconcerting that some of the contributors do not appear to be phoneticians at all; one wonders what the collaborators who are phoneticians think of certain of the statements with which their contributions find themselves in company (such as one to the effect that "the average baby, under two months of age, is endowed with $7\frac{1}{2}$ phonemes"). Several important techniques of phonetic research, including palatography and kymography, are referred to but nowhere explained. No mention is made of the uses of recording in phonetic investigation, and there is no discussion of methods of teaching pronunciation.

It is almost inevitable, in a work planned as this one appears to have been, that there should be no general body of theory common to all the contributors; it is scarcely surprising, therefore, that they contradict each other at times. More effort could have been made, however, to unify terminology: we find the same term used in two, and sometimes three, different senses by different writers (vocalization, accent, implosion, for example). What is more serious is that some terms are not explained anywhere in the book (for example, mixed vowel, lenis, fortis). A glossary of technical terms should have been provided. Even a carefully prepared index would have been a help; the present one is quite inadequate.

There are outstanding contributions by Peterson, Martinet, and Jakobson and Halle; but it is nevertheless not possible to recommend the book (quite apart from its price) to the layman who wants a manual of phonetics.

D. ABERCROMBIE

SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON

Sherrington

Physiologist, Philosopher and Poet. By the Rt. Hon. Lord Cohen of Birkenhead. (The Sherrington Lectures, 4.) Pp. xiv+108+3 plates. (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1958.) 17s. 6d.

THIS volume is the fourth of the series of Sherrington Lectures instituted by the University of Liverpool in recognition of the distinguished contributions of the late Sir Charles Scott Sherrington to physiology and medicine, and of his association with the University as its George Holt professor of physiology during 1895-1913.

Lord Cohen has been the University's professor of medicine for a generation, and has chosen for his theme a much more personal subject than have the previous lecturers. He has also given reproductions of the Augustus John painting which hangs in the University Club of Liverpool, and of that by R. G. Eves which is in the Royal Society of London, as also of the photograph by Allan Chappelow which was chosen by Sherrington as the frontispiece to the second edition of "Man on his Nature", which was published on Sir Charles's ninety-fourth birthday. Apart from these three plates and a number of text figures, the book contains in its 108 pages a brief introduction, Lecture 1 which is biographical, Lecture 2 which deals with Sherrington as physiologist, and Lecture 3 which is of him as philosopher and poet. To these are added a bibliography, based on writings compiled for Denny-Brown's edition of "Selected Writings" and on John Fulton's obituary notice in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*.