Pictorial History of Philosophy

By Dagobert D. Runes. Pp. x+406. (New York: Philosophical Library, 1959.) 15 dollars.

THIS handsome volume includes approximately 1,000 portraits, photographs, facsimiles, archæological illustrations and other pictorial material connected in one way or another with philosophy. The net is cast very widely; Goethe, Hitler, Buddha, massacres of the Jews by the Crusaders, photographs of practices by adherents of Yoga, compete for attention with the more conventional practitioners of the craft, such as Aristotle, Cicero, Duns Scotus, Husserl, Wittgenstein and Dewey. Although the principles of exclusion are not obvious, the effect is to have here a collection of philosophical portraits of a range which it would be hard to find elsewhere. Title-pages from important classics are liberally spread throughout the volume, as well as dramatic scenes from the general history of thought and religion, for example, Calvin arguing with Farel, alchemical laboratories, the dying Seneca, Pericles addressing the Athenians. There is less to be said for the literary entries that accompany the illustrations. They vary from a sixth to a third of one page, Kant getting rather less than, say, Carlisle, Croce or Russell, and too frequently mention what is trivial and biographical at the expense of an accurate appraisal of a person's thought. The page facing Russell's portrait shows Stalin, and that with Heidegger has Hitler's portrait: the author makes no bones where his sympathies lie; deeply pro-Jewish, with a full page for "Lincoln, Sage and Seer", and a penchant for the wisdom of the East. Perhaps, though this may introduce an amateurish note, the feelings that emerge are none the worse for it; and if one would not want to learn one's philosophy from it, one must be grateful for the very many rare photographs such as a daguerreotype of Schopenhauer or others of Lloyd Morgan, Alexander, Bradley, Bosanquet; all reproduced with magnificent quality.

GERD BUCHDAHL

Theory and Applications of Nuclear Induction

By Prof. Ajit Kumar Saha and Tara Prasad Das. Pp. x+516. (Calcutta: Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, 1957.) Rs. 25; 40*s*.; 6 dollars.

BY and large, there is only one thing wrong with this book—its date of publication. The reviewer's natural sympathy is with Prof. Saha, who completed the task interrupted by his father's death in 1956. But a manuscript completed in 1953 and only slightly revised before receipt in 1959 (although dated 1957), is not in keeping with the pace of physics to-day. The book is written primarily with the experimental scientist in mind; it covers relaxation time and moment measurements, quadrupole effects and chemical shifts in detail. Some mathematical ability and a knowledge of the language of quantum mechanics is assumed, but the arguments are presented in such detail that it should be easy for those learning the subject to follow them. In the authors' own words, "the attitude has been to discuss elaborately the phenomenological theory and the experimental techniques". They have achieved this aim, but it is of course the weakness of phenomenological theory that it covers only the cases discussed; extension and generalization are hazardous. The notable example of this difficulty is in the absence of a treatment of negative-spin temperatures.

The book is well printed, well indexed, and an errata sheet bound into the volume has corrected a good many minor slips. The bibliography is excellent up to 1956, and the book will save a good deal of searching of the literature before that date.

W. M. LOMER

The World is Round

The Story of Man and Maps. By Prof. Frank Debenham. Pp. 100. (London: Macdonald and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., in association with Rathbone Books, 1959.) 50*s*. net.

"THE World is Round," by Prof. F. Debenham, is "a far cry from those primitive attempts to the drawing of actual maps". The evolution of man's cartographical skill has been achieved by the use of vivid colour reproductions of imaginary world maps and ancient charts. Having traced man's global knowledge to the present day, the author uses specially designed colour relief maps to show the world as we know it to-day. Many unfamiliar sectors of the Earth are revealed and each continent is shown in relation to its neighbour, thus bringing out many points of comparison hitherto unrealized. Prof. Debenham avoids stress on one country more than another, and points out a sociological moral through a geographical fact; the Earth is indeed round, but its centre is not the place where we live.

The pages dealing with the historical background of each country are, in my opinion, out of place in a book of this kind, and tend to detract from its main purpose. From a concise section dealing with map-making instruments through the ages the reader is led to a review of man's latest inventions in mapping under the sea, under the land, and in outer space. This is a beautifully presented book that would not only provide a most useful aid in the school library but also would grace the shelf of any home.

M. CARADINE

La Vie des Colibris

Les Trochilidés. Par Ariane Martin et Anne Musy. (Les Beautés de la Nature—Série Exotique.) Pp. 246+32 planches. (Neuchatel: Éditions Delachaux et Niestlé, 1959.) n.p.

HUMMINGBIRDS, like butterflies and birds' eggs, are natural objects which interest the collector as well as the scientist; they are, as described in this book, "living precious stones" showing a fascinating variety of colour and form within the limits of their distinctive and homogeneous group. Although the object of the series to which this volume belongs is to extol the beauties of Nature, it is the biology rather than the art of hummingbirds which is the theme.

The text consists of a short historical note and chapters on geographical distribution, structure and morphology, temperature regulation, locomotion, food, reproduction and behaviour. These subjects are, of necessity, very briefly summarized. It is not widely known that hummingbirds have a temperature-control mechanism, so that in certain circumstances they can become torpid. Hibernation, in fact, was described in hummingbirds a long time ago.

To those who know little or nothing of these fascinating creatures this book conveys a fair summary of the facts of their biology. The text provides informative reading for the interested layman who, if he understands art, might also appreciate the colour plates.

J. D. MACDONALD