from the published maps; if necessary the original 6-in. maps can be consulted. Wibberley expresses some surprise that from other evidence he finds these figures reasonably correct! Such is the strict discipline of the map, they could not be otherwise.

In general Wibberley accepts the estimates that "new urban developments and special uses are likely to require between 500,000 and 700,000 acres . . . mainly on the better farmlands of the lowlands", before 1971 (p. 58) and he is concerned with the replacement of agricultural production thus lost. He writes as an economist, and although he finds the value added by the land alone in Britain—the input–output ratio—is only of the order of £4 per acre per annum, and would seem to suggest that farming as a whole is scarcely worth while, he has some interesting calculations. If land is worth only £30 an acre and is devastated by mineral working, any expenditure in excess of £30 an acre in restoration is not economically justified—so runs the old argument which conveniently ignores the lessons of two world wars. It is certainly an advance when Wibberley argues that a capital expenditure of up to £165 in 'general intensification of agriculture' (1955–56 values) for each acre lost to building is justified on economic grounds.

Undoubtedly, the real value of the book lies in the ammunition provided by an economist in favour of the conservation of the resources of the better types of land in the lowlands rather than in the attempt to replace acreage lost in the lowlands by heavy expenditure in the highlands. L. DUDLEY STAMP

CUSTOM AND MYTH

Folkways

A Study of the Sociological Importance of Usages, Manners, Customs, Mores, and Morals. By Prof. William Graham Sumner. Pp. vii + 692. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc.; London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1959.) 2.49 dollars; 20*s*.

IT is not altogether easy to understand why this book has been reprinted. First published in 1907, it became a highly influential work in the United States and the basis of the author's "Science and Society" which, written with the help of A. G. Keller, did not appear until much later.

Prof. Sumner had a varied career. Educated both in the United States and in Europe, he was at one time an episcopal clergyman and then was appointed professor of political and social science at Yale. He became interested in the theories of Spencer and Lippert, and came to believe that what he called 'mores' and 'folkways' had had a far greater influence than had hitherto been believed. By 'mores' he meant that vast system of usages which cover the whole of life, containing within themselves their own justification of tradition and approved by mystic sanction, thus developing into principles of truth and right. They defined the limits which made anything 'right': they covered manners with a mantle of current custom. It is thus that the folkways arise and are gradually converted into the mores.

In developing his theories and illustrating his thesis, Sumner was making a systematic study of various anthropological and sociological records, and this book is in essence a collection of his notes and memoranda which were meant to be incorporated later into a more ambitious work. Strongly influenced by Darwinian teaching and the doctrines of *laissez-faire*, Sumner was a powerful exponent of individual effort, and he regarded all such ideas as those inherent in liberal socialism as an interference with natural laws. To Sumner the most important factors in the science of society are the folkways, which control both individual and social undertakings and nourish philosophical ideas generally. He does not consider them organic or material. Rather they belong to a super-organic system of relations, conventions and institutional arrangements.

As a work of interest to the historian of sociological research the book has long been esteemed in the United States, but its lack of sustained treatment and the date at which it appeared have now considerably lessened its value to the practical sociologist. E. J. DINGWALL

THEORY OF ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

Electric Circuit Theory

By Dr. F. A. Benson and Dr. D. Harrison. Pp. viii + 371. (London: Edward Arnold (Publishers), Ltd., 1959.) 30*s*. net.

THIS book will be welcomed by students of all colleges having a syllabus in electric circuit theory corresponding closely to that of the University of Sheffield, for here will be found all the material necessary for their examinations together with an adequate number of numerical problems and answers.

The authors cover d.c. and a.c. circuits, with a collection of useful network theorems, transformers, rotating machine circuits and thermionic valve circuits; and claim that their book is one of the few that covers light-current and heavy-current circuit applications in one volume. The space devoted to light-current applications is, however, very much greater than that allowed for the heavy-current problems, but in spite of this all reference to transistors has been omitted. The authors justify this on the grounds of the necessity to keep the book to a reasonable size, but to many readers it would have appeared preferable to omit some of the more advanced material to make room for at least an outline of transistor theory.

The book, although well written, is curiously uneven. No doubt this arises from the authors' efforts to base parts of the work on the standard required for first-year students and part on the standard for second-year students. This variation of standard is particularly evident in the circuit theorems, some of which are proved and others stated without proof. Yet by the end of the second year all students should be able to prove all the circuit theorems of which they make use. Thus, no proof is given that an active four-terminal network may have four independent parameters while a passive four-terminal network has only three, but the authors find space to give two proofs of the star-delta transformation.

There are a number of minor imperfections in the work, which are little likely to worry the average student, but could well be amended in a future edition. It would be wearisome to list all these, but