

Language, Meaning and Persons

By Prof. Nikunja Vihari Banerjee. Pp. 173. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1963.) 30s.

THIS book, the work of an Indian professor, is a continuation of his earlier *Concerning Human Understanding*, and embodies a serious attempt to present a cure for what, in his view, is the prevailing sickness of philosophy. Whether he will find agreement that his patient is ill, or even, if so, that his prescription will be effective or even desirable, is another matter.

It would appear that philosophy needs liberation, and this means in particular that it should extricate itself from its subservience to science and logic. Which done, it could then apply itself wholly to mankind and the needs of the individual, making him unexceptionally a member of society, inseparable from his fellows. Included in this would be a revival of metaphysics.

Naturally, such an outlook must reckon with religion sooner or later, and the way in which this encounter occurs is peculiar. The problem is faced sympathetically, but a supra-mundane being is considered incapable of dealing with the evils and perplexities of a technological age and the self-directed cravings of men. One may well ask how else can humanity be saved if it is forbidden to look outside itself.

The discussion includes the epistemological background, imagination, language, meaning and persons, ending with the question of human liberation. Incidentally, the writer has the slightly tiresome habit of saying 'generally', when he almost certainly means 'usually'.

But this slender volume is provocative in the good sense, and has a healthy reaction against the tendency of philosophy to be a poser of problems and no more.

F. I. G. RAWLINS

The Pathology of the Tumours of Children

(Pathological Monographs, No. 2.) By Prof. Rupert A. Willis. Pp. vii+200. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1962.) 42s.

TUMOURS of children are a special problem in pathology. It is not to be expected that environmental factors, such as are well known to be responsible for cancer in adults, can be the cause of neoplasms in infancy. For an explanation of these we must turn to embryology and to someone who is an acknowledged expert in both embryology and pathology. Prof. Rupert A. Willis is obviously the man. A few years ago he began a former book entitled *The Borderland of Embryology and Pathology* with this sentence: "Almost from the beginning of my work in pathology, the embryological aspects had a special appeal for me, and I felt sure that embryologists and pathologists had much to gain by a better knowledge of each other's subject". This earlier book (published by Butterworth in 1958) has already become a classic and the best guide to the understanding of malformations and errors of development. It has paved the way for the latest book by Prof. Willis, entitled *The Pathology of the Tumours of Children*.

As with all his other books, this is based on personal experience. Its nucleus has been a personal histological collection of more than 700 tumours from children. A special feature is that cases cited in the text can be identified by a code of initials, and duplicate histological sections and records of all specified cases have been incorporated in the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's Tumour Reference Collection. This will be much appreciated, because the histological classification of some tumours of children is difficult for hospital pathologists without special experience. In this field even experts often disagree. Many instances of differences of opinion are admitted in this book, one typical example being from the "gliomas of uncertain nature" where, in one instance (case 6, p. 35), the panel of experts differed greatly in their diagnosis.

The value of a monograph such as this depends on three features: (1) the authority of the author; (2) the choice of references to other work; (3) the quality of its illustrations. In this work, as in all his previous writings, there is no doubt about the authority of the author or the selection of references. Moreover, in this latest book, all will agree also that the illustrations are superb. They are the work of Mr. E. V. Willmott, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

C. E. DUKES

The Identification of Molecular Spectra

By Dr. R. W. B. Pearse and Prof. A. G. Gaydon. Third edition. Pp. xi+347. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1963.) 120s. net.

SINCE this book was first published in 1941—and particularly in the thirteen years since the second edition appeared—advances in the development of spectroscopic techniques and a widening of the fields of research in which spectroscopy plays a dominant part have led to the publication of a vast amount of new data. With the same care and precision as marked the previous editions, the authors have collected and collated the data up to the end of 1961. The table of persistent band heads, extending from p. 3–50, includes some 350 new entries and is set out with extreme clarity and ease of consultation. The bulk of the book (pp. 51–320) deals with individual band systems, including 84 molecules not previously included and 135 molecules for which additional or revised data have been obtained. In some ten pages are given practical procedure and precautions, followed by a number of actual spectra and an appendix of the persistent atomic lines of each element.

The authors are to be warmly congratulated for their assiduity and patience in sorting out and presenting in such an eminently acceptable form information which will prove to be of incalculable worth to all who are directly or indirectly concerned with molecular spectroscopy.

The printing and general arrangement are excellent and make it so easy to use the book. For what it contains—and is—this book is good value at £6.

W. ROGIE ANGUS

The Earth and You

A Geographic Picture of the World We Live In. By Dr. Norman J. G. Pounds. Pp. 591. (London: John Murray, 1963.) 50s. net.

THIS is a general account of the way in which climate, soil and mineral resources have affected the life of man. It is especially welcome at a time when the growth of the Earth's population and the problem of increasing food production concern all thoughtful people. Dr. Pounds makes it clear that geographical factors cannot alone explain differences in living standards; he contrasts areas of comparable climate and resources and does not hesitate to point a moral where necessary.

He first discusses the Earth as a whole, its structure and climate, criteria of over- and under-population, gross national product, food consumption and the factors which link men in political units. There follows an account of the principal regions of the world and the States composing them. The reader is made conscious of the difficulties that arise when social, economic or political aims conflict with facts of topography or climate.

The book makes interesting reading, is well produced and is illustrated with many diagrams. The two-page maps would have been better mounted to 'fold-in': some of the main points of interest are obscured by the fold of the binding.

So wide a survey cannot be detailed, but Dr. Pounds has provided a supplementary reading list for those who wish to make a more detailed study of a particular area. They are nearly all American publications. The book will be a welcome addition to a school library or to the possessions of any person who seeks information on matters of general interest.