

gives a list of materials and apparatus needed for each instrument.

Electrometric methods are now of such importance in practice that the section on "Electrometric Analysis" is to be welcomed as an introduction to the subject. In the reviewer's opinion, the pages devoted to "fire assaying" might well be omitted in favour of an addition to the description of electrometric measurements, particularly as the art of dry assaying is one requiring long experience.

The book serves as an excellent introduction to the subject, and is well worth the attention of students of chemical technology.

J. J. F.

*The Philosophy of "As if": a System of the Theoretical, Practical and Religious Fictions of Mankind.* By H. Vaihinger. Translated by C. K. Ogden. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. xviii + 370. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., Inc., 1924.) 25s. net.

PROF. VAHINGER'S work, now translated into English, has been well known by philosophers almost from its first appearance in 1911. The translation is made from the sixth edition of the original, specially revised by the author to meet the case of historical references which might be obscure to the English reader. The doctrine is that "'as if,' i.e. appearance, the consciously false, plays an enormous part in science, in world-philosophies, and in life." The basis of the theory is Kant's doctrine of the Ideas of Reason, God, Freedom, and Immortality. These Ideas, according to Prof. Vaihinger's reading of the Critique, are not objects of knowledge the existence of which, though it cannot be proved by pure reason, is a necessity of the practical reason. He holds, on the contrary, that they are conscious fictions, and that the condition of our human activity is that we must act "as if" they were true. The same principle he holds applies not only to Ideas of Reason but also to all the categories of the understanding, in fact throughout the realms of science and philosophy.

*Electrode Reaction and Equilibria: a General Discussion held by the Faraday Society, November 1923.* Pp. 665-838. (London: The Faraday Society, 1924.) 10s. 6d. net.

THE general discussions of the Faraday Society continue to fulfil the useful functions which give to that Society its unique position amongst bodies pursuing similar aims in various branches of science. The discussion on "Electrode Reaction and Equilibria" was held on November 26, 1923, in the very worst of conditions as regards weather, but was attended in person by Prof. Bilmann, of Copenhagen, and by Dr. Heyrovsky, of Prague, as well as by the most keenly interested workers in Great Britain. The permanent record of the discussion forms a volume of nearly 200 pages, and contains 18 original contributions on the two related subjects of reversible and of irreversible electrode reactions, which were the subject of consideration at the afternoon and evening meetings. It is impossible to summarise these papers in a brief note; but the usefulness of earlier issues of the series of reprinted general discussions is so well known, that no further

commendation of the latest publication is needed to emphasise its value to all who are interested in the subject with which it deals.

*Indian Philosophy.* By Prof. S. Radhakrishnan. (Library of Philosophy.) Vol. 1. Pp. 684. (London: G. Allen and Unwin, Ltd.; New York: The Macmillan Co., 1923.) 21s. net.

WE have undoubtedly a vast store of wisdom in the systems of Indian philosophy, and many Western philosophers in the modern period, from Schopenhauer to the Rhys Davids, have drawn inspiration from it. It differs, however, in one very essential particular from Western philosophy, both ancient Greek and modern. It aims at setting our questioning activity at rest by offering us satisfying answers to our problems; it does not stir up in us the restless Socratic spirit of inquiry. The emphasis is on what has been thought out and solved by seer and sage. The study of Indian philosophy, therefore, resembles the study of authoritative religious systems and is unlike the methodology in which our philosophy so largely consists. Prof. Radhakrishnan presents his subject in the form of an encyclopædia of systems. It is a continuous history and also specially useful as a book of reference.

*An Introduction to the Practice of Civil Engineering.* By E. E. Mann. Pp. xi + 296. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE author's object in preparing this volume has been to render easier the period through which young men have to pass after leaving college. This period is often exceedingly trying, both to the beginner and to those who have to look after him in the civil engineer's office. He may have had a very successful college career, and the work he will most certainly be started on is usually of such a character as to lead him to imagine that a great part of his studies have been useless. Of course, this view is quite a mistaken one; responsible work will come later, and the knowledge acquired in college will then be essential to success. The volume before us will be of great service in bridging over the transition period, and we can heartily recommend it to students still pursuing their college course, in order that they may have some idea of what lies before them when they are introduced to the practical work of the civil engineer.

*A School Mechanics.* By C. V. Durell. (Cambridge Mathematical Series.) Part 1. Pp. xx + 186 + x. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1924.) 3s. 6d.

MR. DURELL'S complete work is intended to cover the course required for the School Certificate and the various matriculation examinations. The part before us contains an easy introduction to the subject which should be successful in awakening the interest of the student; its contents are restricted almost entirely to vector quantities located in the same or parallel lines, and cover velocity, acceleration, moments, work, machines, energy, momentum, and the relation of force with acceleration. Gravitational units are employed in the treatment. The author has taken pains to make his subject alive, and the book will be welcomed in such secondary schools as include the systematic teaching of mechanics in their course of work.