

Social Anthropology of North American Tribes: Essays in Social Organization, Law and Religion. Presented to Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown upon the occasion of his accepting the Chair of Social Anthropology at Oxford University. By Fred Eggan, William H. Gilbert, jun., J. Gilbert McAllister, Philleo Nash, Morris E. Opler, John H. Provinse, Sol Tax. Fred Eggan, editor. With an Introduction by Robert Redfield and a Bibliography of Prof. Radcliffe-Brown by Ina Corinne Brown. Pp. xvii + 456. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press; London: Cambridge University Press, 1937.) 13s. 6d. net.

THE announcement of the departure of Prof. A. R. Radcliffe-Brown from the University of Chicago to become the first professor of social anthropology at Oxford inspired certain of his pupils to produce this volume, commemorating his work for the study of social anthropology in the United States during the past five years.

As his colleague Dr. Robert Bedfield reminds us in an introductory appreciation, Prof. Radcliffe-Brown's theories of the method of social anthropology have become something of a storm centre in the United States. They aim at a scientific sociological methodology on the lines laid down in his presidential address to the Anthropological Section of the British Association at its London meeting, in contradistinction to the 'historical' view which has grown out of methods followed by Franz Boas, and the individualistic and psychological methods of E. Sapir and Margaret Mead. Hence this volume is something of both a demonstration and a manifesto. It certainly contains some interesting experiments in method which form a striking contrast to those familiar in the writings of American social anthropologists, and, furthermore, had already been applied to some of the material reviewed here.

Of the essays included in the volume—nine in all—perhaps the most instructive from the point of view of the student of method is that on "Some Problems of Social Organization" by Dr. Sol Tax. The author, after setting out some of the more general questions, for which it is the aim of social anthropology to provide a solution, attacks the kinship terminology of certain Indian tribes of California, who follow the so-called "Omaha" and "Crow" systems respectively. It is interesting to note, however, that in arriving at his conclusions as to the place of these systems as determinants in organization and behaviour, he felt constrained to depart so far from his teachers' strictly sociological concepts as to admit psychological factors.

Glossary of Physics

Compiled and edited by Prof. LeRoy D. Weld, with the collaboration of a large group of Consultant Physicists. Pp. x + 255. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1937.) 15s.

THE rapid development of physics during recent years has, of necessity, required a very large addition to its vocabulary. In reading the literature of a particular branch of the subject in which one has not specialized, one comes across unfamiliar terms; in such instances to have an accurate glossary

to hand is of the greatest use. Prof. Weld and his collaborators deserve the warmest thanks for providing such a glossary. We can well believe that it was "impracticable to make sure of complete agreement among the various persons concerned on each of the many definitions and statements"; but although perhaps a few experts may not favour a definition here and there, the vast majority of physicists and those concerned with its manifold applications will find this an indispensable volume. A pleasing feature of the book is the inclusion of references in connexion with most of the terms, which enable the reader to gain supplementary information.

The book is well arranged and produced, and of convenient size; we hope that the demand for it will justify the issue of future editions at a price that the average physicist is more likely to be able to afford.

H. R. L.

The Theory of Continuous Structures and Arches By Prof. Charles M. Spofford. Pp. xiii + 267 + 12 plates. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc., 1937.) 21s.

THE first chapter of this book deals with continuous structures, and the last is devoted to rigid frames. Apart from these, the text is mainly concerned with arch types, and the applications of the methods of arch analysis to bridge forms. The usual lines of theory are developed effectively. Applications are made with thoroughness and with an explanatory power and detail of evaluation that demonstrate a full knowledge of the problems of design of this class. Two-hinged arches of parabola and segmental types receive very full attention and the treatment of fixed arches is adequate in scope. There is an interesting presentation of the results of photo-electric researches on rigid frame forms and some instructive plates of bridge construction.

Although the treatment is somewhat less wide in scope than the title, the book is well planned and developed for advanced students of bridge theory and design.

Grundriss der allgemeinen Zoologie

Von Prof. Dr. Alfred Kühn. Fünfte, verbesserte und vermehrte Auflage. Pp. ix + 272. (Leipzig: Georg Thieme, 1936.) 9.80 gold marks.

FORMER editions of this excellent text-book, with its comprehensive and well-balanced contents and clear illustrations, have been favourably noticed in NATURE (112, 200; 1923: 129, 925; 1932). It need only be added that many changes in the text show that the fifth edition has been brought up to date. In some places, precision has been given to the already succinct descriptions of the characters of phyla, the section on development has been modified to meet modern views, and a short chapter upon the ecological distribution of animals includes a discussion upon the relationship of species in parasitism and symbiosis. We think it may still be said that there is no English book quite like this introduction in the success with which it lays, in so limited a space, a broad foundation in the morphology, physiology and development of the animal kingdom.