

metric considered in Ahlfors's address, is that between any two Riemann surfaces of genus g greater than unity there is an essentially unique quasi-conformal mapping of constant dilatation.

K. Kodaira deals with structures of complex analytic surfaces, that is, complex analytic manifolds of dimension 2.

M. Heins surveys results concerned with a certain aspect of conformal mapping of Riemann surfaces. The author has made many contributions to the subject, which is still in an early stage of development.

J. A. Jenkins introduces an idea due to Teichmüller that certain kinds of extremal problems in geometric function theory are associated with quadratic differentials. The author then states his 'general coefficient theorem'. Best possible inequalities are found for the first few coefficients of univalent functions, including the known bounds for the third coefficients in the regular and meromorphic cases.

J. CLUNIE

MODERN ECONOMICS

Economics

The Science of Prices and Incomes. By H. Speight. Pp. 671. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1960.) 42s. net.

IT is difficult to do justice to Mr. Speight's book in a short review: it is a very long book (670 closely packed pages), it contains much that is excellent, it gives ample proof of the author's wide knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, his subject, and yet I am uncertain to what extent the book meets the requirements of university students and students reading for qualifying examinations of professional associations for whom the book is intended.

Mr. Speight writes (p. 290) "... the function of a text-book is to present its subject as it exists to-day ..." and this he has done. The result is a most modern text-book. But this modernity has exacted a price; a long book and, in spite of the length, the omission of some basic material (for example, formal analysis of selling outlays, indifference curves and the demand for complementary goods), and a brevity of exposition of basic theory which, though in the main sound, is sometimes incomplete (for example, references are made to the convexity of a consumer's indifference curves but no formal analysis is made of the convexity) and occasionally ambiguous or wrong (such as the discussion using Figs. 52 and 53, p. 207, which is wrong about the response of the intra-marginal firms to an increase in market price). Little that has concerned economists in the post-war period has escaped Mr. Speight's net, from the theory of games to the Radcliffe Report on the working of the monetary system. Mr. Speight tells us that "one of the most difficult tasks in the actual writing of the book was deciding where to stop". There is plenty of scope for controversy on what should be included in a basic text-book, but my preference is for a number of short but thorough books which go out of their way to meet the difficulties of students. Perhaps it is time we decided that the "subject as it exists to-day" is too big to be dealt within a single volume.

The book covers almost the whole range of economics. Part 1 deals with the nature of economics, wealth and income. Part 2 deals with the theories of demand and production. Parts 3 and 4 deal with

welfare economics and the economics of money and banking. Part 5 deals with the theory of income and employment, the trade cycle, public finance and fiscal policy, international trade and finance, and concludes with a chapter on stability and growth. The latest analytical devices are used throughout. It must also be mentioned that the book contains a lot of interesting factual material on economic structure and institutions, and some which is relevant to the assessment of the validity of the theory being discussed (such as the influence of the rate of interest on investment decisions).

The later chapters are not claimed to be more than introductions to the major themes of their subjects, and if they stimulate the reader to further reading they will have done their job. This is equally true of many of the earlier chapters such as those on the theory of the firm and those sections dealing with welfare economics. Supplementary reading is automatic in the universities and is laid on to supplement lectures and as a basis for written work. Much of Mr. Speight's material will be valuable in this connexion as a first approach, for example, the various sections of his book dealing with the rate of interest. The private student, however, will not find a number of parts of this book easy going and is likely to wish that the author had spent more time on their potential difficulties at the expense of some of his marginal material.

The book is well produced, attractive to look at and the contents are very clearly laid out. It is good value for money. A few minor errors, however, need correction. The reference on p. 79 to Fig. 9 should be to Fig. 10a. The text on pp. 83 and 84 refers to letters N , Q , D and Y on Fig. 12, but this figure does not contain these letters. The three sections of Fig. 43 on p. 194 should be labelled A , B and C . On p. 498 there is a reference to $K = \frac{1}{2}$; this should read $c = \frac{1}{2}$ or $K = 2$.

H. BURTON

FOSSIL MAMMALS

Traité de Paléontologie

Tome VI, Premier Volume: Mammifères—Origine Reptilienne—Évolution. Publié sous la direction de Jean Piveteau. Pp. viii+1138. 970 figs. + 1 planche. (Paris: Masson et Cie., 1961.) Broché 240 N.F.; Cartonné toile 254 N.F.

WITH the publication of the first volume of Tome VI, only one volume (Tome IV) remains to complete Piveteau's *Traité de Paléontologie*, which began publication in 1952. Of the eight volumes comprising the work, three are devoted to invertebrates, two to the lower vertebrates and three to the mammals, one of the latter being exclusively devoted to Primates—a heavily anthropocentric bias. Nineteen authors contribute to the volume under review, and of these fourteen are French, the major contributions being made by Piveteau, Lehman, Viret and Dechaseaux. The first third of the volume deals with mammal-like reptiles; the second with mammalian anatomy, classification, geographical and stratigraphical distribution and the Mesozoic Mammalia; the final third treats systematically with Carnivora, Cetacea and Artiodactyla—an oddly unnatural grouping of orders.

The *Traité* is one of a series of recent French science treatises, a field which was previously so typically Germanic. Piveteau's treatise is a worthy successor