elop the creative faculty in him. This defect is to be drastically remedied. It is, therefore, to be seriously considered whether it is desirable at all that a student should, for improving his scientific abilities, take help from such books.

The volume under review has a limited objective in view, *viz.*, to take the students of the Andhra University I.Sc. safely through the practical examination. The authors have spared no pains to meet these requirements. However, a little more care should have been bestowed on the diagrams in some of which the clamps and the corks are out of all proportion to the rest of the apparatus. In some places the word 'weight' has been used for the word 'mass'. The reviewer hopes that these will be taken into consideration by the authors, in any revised editions.

D. S. S.

Spectroscopy and Combustion Theory. By A. G. Gaydon (with a Foreword by Prof. A. C. Egerton). (Chapman and Hall, London), 1942. Pp. x + 191. Price 17*sh.* 6*d.*

The book deals with the contributions of spectroscopy to the theory of combustion. That it should appear in the midst of a devastating war is rather significant. Aerial bombardment as a weapon to exterminate cities has not been completely successful. Better knowledge of the mechanism of combustion will, of course, enable man to improve upon this weapon in future wars! It will also lead to more economical methods of utilizing fuel materials, the world supply of which may not be long maintained. Lastly, there is the potential gain of extension of knowledge and the satisfaction of having 'wrested' some more of Nature's secrets, consequences of which are not easy to foresee.

The spectroscopic approach to many problems is still in its beginnings. It is especially so in the case of problems of combustion because the processes here concerned involve radicals and molecules more than atoms; and molecular spectroscopy itself, is of comparatively recent growth. The book under review is an attempt "to collect together and discuss the results of recent research in the various ways in which spectroscopy has been applied to combustion problems". Naturally, in a subject like this which is still in the making, many conclusions are bound to be provisional and a certain amount of personal bias cannot be eliminated. In spite of these limitations, the author has certainly brought to bear upon the subject a broad, refreshing and stimulating outlook. The publication is a welcome addition to the not very extensive literature (specially in English) on molecular spectroscopy. The book, along with a modest spectroscopic laboratory, is what the reviewer would highly recommend to the various institutions which are interested in fuel technology in this country.

R. K. ASUNDI.

You and Your Radio. By Vepa V. Lakshmana Rao, B.E., D.I.C., A.M.I.R.E. (Madras Law Journal Press, Mylapore, Madras), 1942. Pp. xvii + 187. Price Rs. 3.

The "Radio Receiver" is now a definite item in the accoutrement of many Indian houses. It is widely used merely as a clever tool devised by the scientists for tapping messages passing through the "air" and emanating from various "Stations" and when it gets out of order, it has only to be packed up and sent to the nearest "repair shop" for reconditioning. But the human species is by nature curious and there are many who are eager to know, without going much into the details, something of the "innards" of their set and of how it works and how the messages are put over into the air from the various stations. The average school or college student can at best tell him something of the "lamps" used inside and a few other generalities but this is rarely satisfying. Mr. Vepa has now come forward to fill this need and he presents in a breezy conversational style an explanation of the whole organisation of "broadcasting" and of the several mysterious technical terms such as "fading", "skipping distance", etc., which are so commonly used by the technicians. The book covers a very wide range of topics, including interference suppression, what and when to tune?, radio-gramophone, batteries and their upkeep, radio relaying, types of radio licenses, rural broadcasting, etc.

It is therefore, the more to be regretted that such a book should be marred by the extreme crudity of some of the illustrating diagrams. We refer in particular, to those on pages 37, 85, 89, 118 and 129. It is hoped that by the time a next edition is called for the author will get ready a complete new set of carefully drawn diagrams to replace the present ones. With this improvement one can anticipate that the book will get increasingly popular. G.