

not passed beyond the formative stage of development. It would be of great advantage if the subjects were presented in the next edition in two parts, one giving a brief outline of the theoretical principles, just sufficient experimental details for accurate results and only those examples of analyses where these methods have been found to be reliable and most useful. Detailed theoretical treatment and the various applications where the method does not yield results which are quite unequivocal might be dealt with in the other part. The theoretical background of the whole subject though it has been considerably cleared up by recent work seems to admit of considerable improvement in many places. One such topic is the interpretation of maxima. The fundamental relations in section 6 of the second chapter would, it is hoped, in due course be capable of a more direct theoretical treatment. One would have liked a more comprehensive discussion of the investigations on the electro-capillary curve which, as the authors have indicated, is of utmost significance in polarographic work.

Taking all in all, however, the book is a welcome publication and illustrates the great progress made in the development of these methods and their utility in which the authors and their collaborators have actively participated. In addition to the subject and author indices there is an appendix containing half-wave potentials of inorganic substances which will be found to be very useful.

The reviewer regrets the delay in reviewing the book partly due to pressure of work and partly for other reasons. J. N. M.

Electrical Engineering Practice, Vol. II. By J. W. Meares and R. E. Neale. (Chapman & Hall Ltd., London), 1942. Pp. xii + 663, Figs. 244. Price 35sh.

This is volume number two of the well-known work of the authors which is now running in its fifth edition and which is published in three volumes. The first volume was published a year earlier.

Volume two, as it appears in its present form, is an improved and enlarged edition of the previous one. The contents and the index are so arranged that they form one single unit for the three volumes together. Further, reference is to numbered paragraphs and not to pages. There are in all 1060 paragraphs of which the first 386 are in volume I and 669-1060 in volume III and the rest in the volume under review. The subject-matter included, therefore, is divided into three parts called parts IV, V and VI and it runs through eleven chapters in all, beginning with chapter 17 and ending with chapter 27. Part IV deals with transformation, conversion and storage of electrical energy; part V deals with distribution and control in branch circuits; and finally, in part VI are given the applications of electrical energy.

The book is packed with useful and valuable information. It has been brought up-to-date and one distinctive feature about it is that although

it deals essentially with modern practice still it gives wherever necessary information about the older practices on which later practices are based. This is a book which will be found of great help to every engineer—whether electrical, mechanical or civil. It has all the advantages of a hand-book without its disadvantages. The field covered is very large and yet it is written in such a way that whatever the topic that is being discussed, the reader gets the impression that he has been given a good bit of information which he can understand and which will be of definite use to him. The balance that has been achieved between what one calls 'theoretical' and what one calls 'practical', makes the book unique.

There are plenty of illustrations included in the text as also a large number of tables which give information not easily accessible. At the end of each chapter a more or less exhaustive bibliography is given which makes the book still more valuable.

In conclusion, in the opinion of the reviewer, this book is meant for an engineer whose duties demand from him both technical knowledge and experience. Money spent in buying these volumes is money well invested.

Prakashlektan Shastratil Ascharye. By K. A. Damle, B.Sc. (Published by the author at Damelewada, Shastripol, Baroda), 1943. Pp. 156, Figs. 39. Price Rs. 2.

This little volume of 156 pages written in Marathi, is not exactly a treatise on photography and allied subjects although it contains a lot of information. It is essentially meant for the general reader. It is written in an easy style and succeeds in keeping the interest of the reader throughout.

The book can roughly be divided into two parts. The first part which covers four chapters unfolds the remarkable story of the birth and growth of the science of photography. The rest of the book is devoted to a number of topics connected with photography the range of which is suprisingly wide. Here are some of the items dealt with: Cinematograph, talking pictures, trick photography, colour photography, X-ray, infra-red, ultra-violet photography, spectro- and micro-photography, photostat, etc. The reader will find something interesting to read about almost every one of these.

The author has done a distinct service to the Marathi reading public in writing this interesting and instructive book.

A Text-Book of Intermediate Physics in Tamil, Vol. II. By R. K. Viswanathan and V. N. Ramaswamy. (Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar), 1941. Pp. lxxi + 689-1372 + xii.

This is a successful first attempt at writing the more advanced general science in Tamil. The book is written in free Tamil and the presentation of the subjects, light, sound, magnetism and electricity, follows the routine text-book type. The scientific equivalents coined

are mostly simple and intelligible. However, it would be proper to select a few of these which, in the reviewer's opinion, are not satisfactory. Projecting lens is 'வெளிப்படும்', while projection is 'வெளிப்பாடு' and also 'அளவு' is 'amplitude'. Barium is 'பாரியம்' on page 1312 and 'பாரியம்' on page 1330. The reviewer does not also feel happy about the use of both Tamil and English letters in the same figure or equation. There are a number of typographical errors and indiscriminate uses of bold printing, though these do not seriously mar the usefulness of the book. It is to be regretted that a text-book on Physics for Intermediate should be so badly illustrated. An English to Tamil glossary would add to the value of the book.

V. S. G.

Marriage and Family in Mysore. By M. N. Srinivas. (New Book Co., Bombay), 1942. Pp. 218. Price Rs. 7-8-0.

There was a time when, for anthropological information concerning India, the student of the subject had to depend entirely on workers in European Universities and foreign periodicals such as *Anthropos* and *Man*, but since Risley started the ethnographic survey of India, the position with regard to field data steadily improved, though their interpretation and analysis lagged behind. To draw conclusions and arrive at generalisations from a mass of ethnographic material is not an easy task, but to be useful it has to be accomplished in the light of general anthropological theory. Scientific anthropology begins only when regional data can be fitted into those for the whole world. For the anthropology of Mysore, the book under review marks the beginning of the interpretational phase. The Bombay University and Prof. G. S. Ghurye have to be thanked for helping the production of this book; while South Indian Universities are treating Anthropology in a step-motherly fashion, the Bombay University seems to show a better appreciation of its value as a scientific discipline. As the Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University remarks in his Foreword, "Works on Indian Sociology based on careful field study are not very common yet". Man, before he can plan the future or order the present, should know himself. There may be some who might be inclined to regard the theme of this book as banal. The reviewer would ask any Mysorean who holds such a view this simple question: "How many of you who have worn the *Bhashinga* or sat behind the 'milk-post', or tied a *tali* know their full meaning? If you do not know it, look for it in the pages of Mr. Srinivas's book." In nineteen brief chapters, he discusses the institution of marriage in Mysore as it affects its various tribes and castes, and in all the chapters there is something that will interest every class of readers.

For his material, the author depends chiefly on *Mysore Tribes and Castes* and *Mysore Gazetteer*, but whereas these pioneer works are on the observational level, Mr. Srinivas deals with the rites, practices and the various sociological situations at a deeper level. Occa-

sionally he disagrees with the meanings given to some rituals by the earlier writers, and most often he is right. This means no disparagement to the senior workers, for anthropology has outgrown such theories as universal matriarchate, primitive communism, promiscuity, etc. Quite correctly Mr. Srinivas has tried to evaluate the information at his disposal and pointed out where it is incomplete or defective.

Hindu Culture in Mysore is divided into a top-grade—Sanskritic as Mr. Srinivas styles it; a middle grade of mixed composition to the Sanskritic veneer of which constant addition takes place due to the uncritical borrowing by non-Brahman castes of Brahman practices; and low grade, the carriers of which are the primitive tribes. The otherwise static institution of marriage is complicated in the middle grade by the imitateness of non-Brahman communities and the changes are always fatal in their effect on the position of women. Mr. Srinivas issues a warning against this, but social changes would still go on unregulated unless the people themselves realise that the consequences of these unconscious innovations are deleterious.

The subject matter of the book is difficult to summarise and the reviewer can only recommend it to those interested in Sociology in general, and to Mysoreans in particular.

A. A.

School and College Libraries. By S. R. Ranganathan. (The Madras Library Association), 1942. Publication Series No. 11. Printed by Thomson and Co., Ltd., Madras. Pp. 432.

As Mr. John Sargent says in his Foreword to the book, Mr. S. R. Ranganathan needs no introduction to the reading public of India. The present one is, in fact, the tenth of his books on Library Technique. The book is the product of the realisation by the author of the potency of a well-equipped library in stimulating the self-educability of students of the various school and college standards.

The book consists of six parts and twenty-seven chapters; it commences with the chapter on "Why" of school libraries and proves the important place that the school library should occupy in the education of the individual as this alone leads to life-long self-education. In the chapters that follow are given useful information as to what an Elementary School and a High School library should be, how books should be arranged in the libraries, what books there should be, how they should be classified and so forth. Details regarding book selection, accessioning and numbering work are also given. There is also a useful index at the end of the book.

Libraries hold an honoured place in the cultural economy of the great nations of the world. In fact, the libraries should be regarded as people's universities. It is a fact that in India libraries have not yet gained the importance they deserve to have. Mr. Ranganathan's books are sure to stimulate opinion in favour of a strong library movement and help to organise library work on scientific lines.

B. V. SASTRY.