Book Reviews

Fishes of the Pacific Coast of Canada. Wilbert A. Clemens and G. van Wilby. (Bull. LXVIII.) Ottawa: Fisheries Research Board, 1946. Pp. 368. (Illustrated.) Paper, $1.50; cloth, $2.00.

For most of the seas of the world there are no comprehensive books on fishes which are useful to both ichthyologists and nonspecialists. The present volume fills that need for one large ocean area. Every species of fish which has been reported from the west coast of Canada is included. The fish fauna of the Northeast Pacific is so homogeneous, however, that the book will be most useful to anyone interested in the fishes which occur between Monterey Bay, California, and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska.

Identification keys for all of the species are included. There is a well-done, full-length illustration of each kind of fish, newly prepared by F. L. Beebe. Each species is adequately described in the test, and such information as is available about its life history and habits is briefly noted. There is an extensive glossary of the descriptive terms used, which will be useful to nonspecialists who are consulting other fish books. A bibliography of scientific papers on British Columbia fishes is given, followed by a list of general reference books on fish.

The work presented in the book is based on years of field experience with the forms described and is of high quality from an ichthyological standpoint. The system of classification adopted is modern, but on the conservative side and with little attention paid to taxonomic categories below the species level.

W. M. CHAPMAN

University of Washington, Seattle

What is psychology? Werner Wolff. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1947. Pp. xii + 410. (Illustrated.) $4.00.

Although the chapter headings in this book are similar to those found in most general psychology texts, the topics discussed and the data presented are evaluated from the "organismic" point of view which ". . . considers man's behavior not as a fixed arrangement but as a dynamic system; the total behavior is more than the sum of its parts, a directing center being the resultant of functional relationships." In view of the author's theoretical bias it is not surprising that the researches presented in greatest detail are those done in his laboratory as well as in those of other gestaltists. One may wonder if the first-year student reading this book will come away with the impression that the problems with which gestaltists concern themselves are peculiar to that approach alone.

If, as the author states, the aim of this book is to make the student aware of the need for a questioning attitude, might it not be advisable to start with a study of the way in which we use words in questioning, formulating, and analyzing a statement? For example, in his discussion of perception Wolff says: "How can we unite the opposite theses that things actually are as they basically look to us, and that things are not as they look but reflect our imagination?" The reviewer is puzzled by what Wolff means by "actually," "basically," "reflect," etc. Are we referring to the same phenomena when we use the same words? It should be noted that neglect of the study of the function of language is a characteristic of practically all psychology texts.

The chapters on Depth Psychology and Personality present the data in these areas in a more rounded fashion than do most psychology texts; however, devoting two and a half pages to "techniques and aims of Depth Psychology" is likely to give a distorted picture.

The first-year student will probably find this book interesting and stimulating. Representing as it does a particular theoretical orientation in psychology, it should be used in conjunction with other texts with different approaches.

SEYMOUR B. SARASON

Yale University

Guide to the literature of mathematics and physics including related works in engineering science. Nathan Grier Parke, III. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1947. Pp. xv + 205. $5.00.

Despite the fact that mathematics, physics, and their applications in engineering are among the oldest of the sciences, their voluminous literature has been, and still is, difficult to get at. The student of these sciences, beginner and specialist alike, and the librarian who, except in rare cases, is not acquainted with these subjects have long needed a guide to publications in these fields. This need has now been admirably met by Nathan Grier Parke, III, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a matter of fact, useful as this work will be to the expert, it will prove a real boon to that fast-growing army of workers in other sciences who must use mathematics and physics as tools in their own work.

The book begins with a chapter on the principles of reading and study which is followed by chapters on self-directed education, how to conduct a literature search, and how to use periodicals. The directions given are clear and concise, and the reviewer feels that, based upon his experience in the Reference Department of the world's greatest library, even specialists in the physical sciences will profit from reading the first half of Prof. Parke's guide.

In the second half of his book, roughly more than half the volume, the author presents a list of some 1,800 works in mathematics, physics, and related subjects representing, in fact, a carefully selected library in these subjects. Indeed, about half the titles are represented in Dr. Parke's personal library, while the rest were selected from a study of review journals and catalogues and by checking the reference shelves of such collections as those at Johns Hopkins, M.I.T., and the Library of Congress. Not only standard works in English, but also many in French, Italian, and German are listed.

Preceding the list of titles is a classification of the subject matter of the text. The references, however, are arranged under