Book Reviews

The psychology of ego-involvements: social attitudes & identifications. Muzafer Sherif and Hadley Cantril. New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1947. Pp. viii + 525. $6.00.

Two able social psychologists combine their talents to present a systematic development of the concept of ego-involvement, a problem which deserves much more attention than academic psychology has seen fit to accord it.

Regarding the ego as a constellation of attitudes which, from infancy on, are related to the "I," "me," "mine" experiences, the authors first provide a careful consideration of the concept of attitude. Significant is a constant effort to correlate everyday human phenomena with results from the laboratory. Rejecting any notion that the ego is an innate entity, considerable attention is given to its genetic development, for, as attitudes are learned (and they are learned), the ego is formed. Of especial importance is the turbulent period of adolescence, during which there is a "re-formation" of the ego which "has to be anchored securely and in a relatively high standing in relation to one's group. Whether this will be achieved by being assertive or submissive, by being individualistic or co-operative . . . will vary according to the demands and pressures of one's own reference group in general and membership group in particular" (p. 277). One sees here the repeated emphasis of the book in stressing the impact of the social environment on the development of the individual.

In rounding out their thesis, the authors range widely in gathering evidence from the fields of anthropology, delinquency and gang behavior, industry, the military, mental disorder, literature, and conclude with a belaboring of psychoanalysis; but at no time do they depart from a close correlation of all data with their systematic formulation.

C. W. HUNTLEY

Union College

Colloid science, a symposium. E. K. Rideal, *et al.* Brooklyn, N. Y.: Chemical Publishing Co., 1947. Pp. x + 208. (Illustrated.) $6.00.

Based on a postgraduate course sponsored by the Department of Colloid Science, Cambridge University, this book deals with the following chapters: "Surface Chemistry and Colloids" (insoluble monolayers; multilayers; foams; emulsions; the solid-liquid interface; electrokinetic phenomena; colloidal electrolytes) (52 pp.), "Thermodynamics and Colloidal Systems" (15 pp.), "The Study of Macromolecules by Ultracentrifuge Electrophoresis, and Diffusion Measurements" (15 pp.), "The Viscosity of Macromolecules in Solution" (37 pp.), "The Kinetic Theory of High Elasticity" (8 pp.), "Emulsions *in vivo*" (11 pp.), "The Study of Colloidal Systems by X-Ray Analysis" (15 pp.), "Membrane Equilibrium" (8 pp.), "Infra-red Spectra and Colloids" (8 pp.), and "Vinyl Polymerization in the Liquid Phase" (19 pp.).

This formidable array of topics is treated in the space of 188 small pages. Except in the case of an article by Eirich on the viscosity macromolecules in solution, this limitation has led to an excessively condensed and rather sketchy presentation, however able and competent the various authors are.

Those familiar with the subject matter are hardly in need of reviews of this nature; much more thorough and scholarly treatments are readily available. Those not yet intimately familiar with the subject matter will hardly be able to obtain more than the most superficial instruction. The book will be of value primarily to those who happened to attend the symposium on which the book is based.

As a sign of the postwar resurrection of constructive scientific interest in Great Britain, the book is highly welcome; very few, however, will find it profitable to purchase this excessively high-priced book.

KARL SOLLNER

39 Decatur, Kensington, Maryland

Multiple factor analysis: a development and expansion of "The vectors of mind." L. L. Thurstone. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1947. Pp. xix + 535. (Illustrated.) $7.50.

Since the early '30s many psychologists have recognized factor analysis as the most promising research tool for systematizing the chaos in the measurement of mental aptitudes and personality. It provides a statistical method for seeking the functional unities which could account for the complexly determined abilities, traits, and responses of human subjects. Dr. Thurstone and his colleagues developed a matrix formulation of the factor problem which is general enough to be applicable in many young fields of research such as learning, perception, aesthetics, social behavior, political science, meteorology, and public health. Enthusiasm for the method was accompanied by misinterpretations and by criticisms of the arbitrariness of alternate solutions.

To clarify the issues, Dr. Thurstone has expanded this revised treatise to double the size of *The vectors of mind* (1935). The lucid mathematical introduction to matrix theory remains as a great aid to the student. Fundamental factor problems are then discussed in detail, with geometrical models to aid the understanding of configuration, rotation of reference axes, and relations between hyperplane and cluster solutions.

A variety of factoring techniques are derived, and the computations illustrated with box problems to simplify discussion of the factors obtained from alternate solutions. This reveals the advantages and limitations of