

book on cybernetics quoted with its short title and French publisher on page nineteen, and then with its full title and American publisher (whose name is mis-spelt) on page twenty-eight. Defects such as these might be unimportant were it not for the generality with which the author treats his subject, a generality which, despite Mr Trevett's translation, appears to English eyes as vagueness and prolixity. As a result, the argument is not easy to follow. This is a pity, because Père Dubarle finds the origins of modern science in 'a great and almost painful insistence on the integrity of thought when face to face with things' (p. 71), and he writes with a keen appreciation of the dignity of the scientist's vocation and of the benefits which technical progress can bring.

MICHAEL HOSKIN

THE LIFE OF ARTHUR STANLEY EDDINGTON. By A. Vibert Douglas. (Nelson; 25s.)

This is a quietly efficient book such as Eddington would have liked. Men of his type are not easy to portray in biographies for the general public. His outward life was thoroughly uneventful: like so many other dons he found his relaxation in walking, cycling, and climbing, had one close friend, and was liked by all he met. He lived for ideas, and ideas in mathematical astronomy are not easy to express in non-technical language. Dr Vibert Douglas gives a good outline of the publications which made Eddington's name as a great scientist, but he does not possess Eddington's sometimes misleading power of popularization, and untrained readers will find his book fairly heavy going. But it is an important contribution to the task of assessing this controversial and rather enigmatic figure, and it is good to know the quiet background to the often heated discussion of his work that still continues twelve years after his death.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.

AN APPROACH TO MODERN PHYSICS. By E. N. da C. Andrade. (Bell; 25s.)

This is a revised version of the author's *Mechanism and Nature* (1930) taking into account most of the fundamental advances in physics that have been made since then. Its scope includes practically the whole of physics from the classical divisions of heat, light, sound, electricity and magnetism through the quantum theory and the atom to the nucleus and cosmic rays. The fundamental ideas of each are described lucidly and non-mathematically, often with helpful analogies. Many of these ideas, however, are better explained by diagrams than by