

SHORTER NOTICES

Die Welt der Atome. By Arthur Haas. Berlin, Walter de Gruyter & Co., 1926. xii+130 pp.

The evolution of our ideas with respect to physical phenomena has been so rapid during the last few years that one who does not devote a fair amount of time to following the development of the subject is likely to feel confused and fail to realize the intimate connection between the new results of experiment. Dr. Haas gave, during the summer of 1926, a series of ten lectures at the University of Vienna, which were intended to give the general public a comprehensive view of the modern physics of the atom, and these lectures have now been published. The author has succeeded admirably in giving a very clear presentation of the modern conception of the atom and of atomic phenomena; and even many who have followed more or less closely the recent developments will find a reading of this book to be both interesting and profitable. In view of the purpose of the author, it is natural that he should have described a very definite model of an atom, and perhaps not laid sufficient emphasis upon the provisional character of the model. But most of the discoveries that have recently been made have resulted from a very definite picture of the atom and so this can hardly be considered a serious fault.

E. P. ADAMS

Mathematical Investigations in the Theory of Value and Prices. By Irving Fisher. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1926. xii+126 pages.

This interesting little book is a photo-engraved reprint of the memoir by Irving Fisher on the subject published in 1892 and long since out of print. An eight page review of the book was published by Professor Fiske in this Bulletin (vol. 2 (1893), pp. 204-211). The impressions of the present reviewer in relation to the book were well expressed by Professor Fiske. In spite of the fact that certain theorists are at present inclined to the view that the students of economics have very commonly been on the wrong track in their efforts to adopt the methods of the physical sciences, it seems fairly obvious that Professor Fisher's book clarifies certain economic theories by the use of mathematics and physical analogies. Thus, clearness is added to the idea of marginal utility by introducing a unit of measurement for utility and by establishing relations among marginal utility, total utility, utility-value, and gain at a given time.

That the book has been recognized by mathematical economists as an enduring contribution to the theory of value and prices is fairly obvious in the light of the facts that it was translated into French by Jacques Moret twenty-five years after the first publication, and that there existed a demand that it be reprinted a third of a century after its first publication.

H. L. RIETZ