

**The Design of Channels for Irrigation or Drainage**, by R. Burton Buckley, C.S.I. 54 pages;  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ ; published by E. & F. N. Spon, Limited, London.

No better description of this book can be given than that appended to its title—"a statement of the various formulae in use and a guide to the practical application of them."

The writer goes very minutely into the practical application of the various formulae for calculating the flow of water in open channels. Special attention is given to Manning's formula, which the author claims is probably as accurate but not so troublesome as Kutter's formula.

The tables and diagrams given are very comprehensive, although it would have been an advantage if these diagrams had been printed on a slightly larger page.

**A Handbook of Testing Materials**.—C. A. M. Smith, M.Sc., Assoc. M. Inst. M.E. 284 pages, 6 x 9, fully illustrated, Constable & Co., Limited.

The stated chief object of the author is to interest engineers in experimental work. In the preface, it is pointed out that the descriptions of apparatus and tests have been made as detailed as possible, which is to be commended. Quite true, there may be many who, because of their experience, do not need such detail, but nothing is more discouraging to an enquiring reader than to find some small item left out of the description simply because a majority of readers are supposed to know it.

The various machines and the accompanying apparatus for carrying out the testing of materials are described fully in such a manner as to not only show their form but the principles involved in each. These descriptions are followed by numerous results of tests on materials, under which heading there is a very great deal of very useful information.

In the appendix, some very interesting results from the research on combined stress are given.

Taken as a whole, the book shows careful preparation and is admirably suited to bring about the author's object, for although there is a wealth of literature on this same subject, yet each new viewpoint, if carefully presented, is an asset to science.

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