

act like mercury on glass when the analyst tries to put a finger on them.

The chapters on correlation of methods and on systems design do not bring out clearly enough the nature and magnitude of the gap now existing between systems design and machine design. Classification and coding systems have not yet caught up with existing machine potentialities; designers can say, "Tell us how to program your requirements and we either have a machine to suit, or we can make one." This situation might be read between the lines, though the actual wording sometimes seems to suggest that machine design is behind rather than ahead of systems design. Again, greater clarity could have been achieved in fewer words.

The glossary of terms at the end is a useful feature. Exception can be taken to some of the definitions, but unanimous agreement in this area is rare. Dissenters are free to roll their own. The index of symbols is also useful.

Since the text says much about indexing, the index should be and is well done; the selection and arrangement of entries are commendable.—*Julian F. Smith, Lenoir-Rhyne College.*

Books West Southwest

Books West Southwest, Essays on Writers, Their Books, and Their Land. By Lawrence Clark Powell. Los Angeles: Ward Ritchie Press (1957).

If Dr. Powell's library runs out of books one day he may always replenish it with books of his own composition. His latest collection contains twelve essays divided into three sections: Arizona and New Mexico (with a side glance at Texas), the California coast around Big Sur, and Los Angeles with its neighbors—the Land of the Future, may the Lord help us!

With exception of those devoted to Robinson Jeffers, the author's chief literary enthusiasm, and to Prof. J. F. Dobie, the essays deal with the Southwest and a selection of its literature. Dr. Powell has experienced powerful responses to the unique color of the Southwest, and he has nurtured and amplified them through much reading and writing. In these essays he again tries to repay

the debt he owes to the land and the literature by setting out "to re-create in prose what makes this country so increasingly meaningful and necessary to one." His method is to seek what he calls essences, which he finds in "altitude, distance, color, configuration, history, and culture." To transmit these materials into evocative prose is his intent.

Dr. Powell's interest and reading have been long and wide, making his essays a pleasant introduction for those who have little or no experience with the states or the books he describes. Using a selective method (he disclaims any attempt at being exhaustive), he relates the effects which some twenty-five books, chiefly novels, have had on his understanding and emotional response to California and the Southwest. His choice is interesting and we owe him thanks for reminding us again of Willa Cather's beautiful *Death Comes for the Archbishop* and for reviving Haniel Long's profound *Interlinear to Cabeza de Vaca*.

The chapter on Jeffers portrays him as a major poet and a universal man. Particularly interesting is the claim that Jeffers had "Goethe's universal mind," some six years after graduation from college. Jeffers himself is quoted as writing that he "always rather disliked Goethe and his fame." A judgment is made that Jeffers is committed to classical models, Aristotelian and others, while at the same time he displays some kind of Christian morality by cleaving a thoroughfare through complex emotion to arrive at a "lysis," a settlement, and an adjusted balance. It seems to me the case is not convincing on the basis of the evidence presented.

The author uses a large number of foreign words and phrases, some of which are incorrect or inconsistent. For example, p. 106, reads *todas* instead of *todos*; accents are sometimes present on Spanish words, sometimes not; two species of oak are given Spanish names usually given to other species, and there are other puzzles, which may, however, be traced to careless proofreading, as may be also a number of wrong word divisions.

The book is nicely printed and pleasantly bound.—*Joseph Rubinstein, University of Kansas.*