BOOK REVIEWS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF MO-RALITY. Henry Hazlitt. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., Princeton, N.J. 398 pp. $9.95.

IN the preface to this most interesting and highly instructive volume, the author states that in writing it he sought "to present a unified theory of law, morals, and manners." In this attempt within a field that for several millenia has occupied the minds of thinkers he has touched upon problems the solutions to which were n e v e r of greater urgency than they are today. Primarily the book is written from the viewpoint of the economist who totally rejects Keynesian theory. The author finds a basis in logic and reason for ethical practice in our daily lives. He firmly believes that the economic interests of the individual in the long run coincide and are virtually identical with those of the society of which he is a part.

The author discusses the conflict between self interest and altruism in the light of social welfare, which he calls "social cooperation" and describes as "the indispensable and foremost means to realization of all our individual ends" and as "the essence of all morality." He concludes his final chapter with the observation that "morality, as we should constantly remind ourselves, is a daily affair, even an hourly affair, not just something we need to think about only in a few high and heroic moments. The moral code by which we live is shown every day not necessarily in great acts of renunciation but in refraining from little slights and meannesses and in practicing little courtesies a n d kindnesses."

The essence of the book is to be found in its age—old wise counsel that each individual should keep his commitments to God, to his neighbor, and to himself. Only in the strict observance of his obligations in these three directions can human society continue to exist.

The book is divided into 33 chapters supplemented with an appendix, a section containing numerous notes and cross references, and a well arranged index. The chapters devoted to public ethics include those on justice, equality and inequality, rights, ethics and the law. In the field of private ethics, the book contains chapters on egoism and altruism, vocation and circumstance, asceticism, and self-sacrifice. In other chapters the ethics of capitalism and socialism are compared, the former being shown as the only system by which justice, freedom, and productivity are enhanced.

The author is a well known writer in the fields of literary criticism, philosophy, politics, economics, and finance. He has written ten other books and numerous articles for various magazines and other publications. He was a co-founder and co-editor of *The Freeman* and twice received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

This book is printed in an attractive and easily read typeface on excellent paper. Bound in black and yellow cloth with headbands, it is a valuable addition to any library.

N. S. *Meese*

THE FREEMASON'S POCKET REFERENCE BOOK. Fred L. Pick and G. Norman Knight. Frederick Muller, Ltd., London, England. 304 pp. $3.

MASONRY is universal but, obviously, it is not everywhere the same. How many American Masons, for example, are familiar with "Aitchison's Haven," *caementarius*, or the "bone box," the "Androgymous degrees" or "Bristol working"? While these and many other words and phrases contained in this valuable reference book may seem strange to members of the Craft on this side of the Atlantic, there is much that will stimulate and excite the curiosity of those seeking more light in Masonry.

Most of the nearly 800 terms defined in this handy little volume will, of course, be familiar to members of the Craft. As might be expected, however, the explanations given are descriptive of the work or customs as practiced in England so that its value to American Masons is more historical than practical.

Nor, unfortunately, can we vouch for the historical accuracy in all cases. Under the entry "Ancient and Accepted Rite" we are told, in part, "The Supreme Council was organized in 1825 and it was then decided to bring the number up to 33, so eight additional