

'The Complete Book of Helicopters' By D N Ahnstrom (World Publishing Co, U S A)

This is a finely illustrated and beautifully produced book which we feel will interest the public relations departments of any firm producing helicopters. The book opens with a short historical section after which the greater part of it is devoted to simple but colourful written descriptions of all kinds of helicopter operations all over the world. There are excellent photographs of many different types of rotary wing aircraft and the American author has been most fair to other countries in his selection of material. The latter part of the book is devoted to extremely simplified explanations of "how it works" and it is this section only which is open to criticism. We feel that it is a pity that these entirely non-technical explanations have been so very much over simplified. Undoubtedly it is wise, in a book designed for those completely ignorant of the first principles of flight, to use the simplest language and to avoid difficult ground especially since the main 'public' for such a book is, no doubt, youthful. Even so we feel that the average schoolboy knows quite enough, or at any rate can understand enough, to demand a good deal more than this. For example, there is not even the simplest explanation of autorotation nor is there an adequate explanation of the reason for the flapping hinge. The author explains that Cierva's earliest autogyros tipped over because their blades were rigid, but he does not say why. He says that "the motion of the air past the wings kept them whirling" but again does not explain why! Whoever will have to supply these answers for the inquisitive young will wish that Mr Ahnstrom had gone a lot further into the "why" and "how" of the helicopter.

J W R

**NINTH ANNUAL DINNER OF
THE HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Thursday, September 8th, 1955, has been provisionally selected for this year's Annual Dinner and opening lecture of the 1955/56 Season.

For the information of our overseas members we would point out that this date falls during the week of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors' Show at Farnborough.

REPRODUCTION OF EARLY ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL

The first six volumes of the Journal have now been reproduced in book form. These are bound in blue with gold lettering on the cover and spine.

They comprise the 24 issues of the Journal between July, 1947 and April, 1953, in the form of three books each containing two volumes as follows —

- Book I Vols 1 and 2, July, 1947 — March, 1949
(Also includes 1946 and 1947 Bulletins)
- Book II Vols 3 and 4, June, 1949 — March, 1951
- Book III Vols 5 and 6, June, 1951 — April, 1953

These books are obtainable from the Association's Office at £5 per book. Bound copies of Volume 7 are also available at £2 10s 0d per book.

Loose-leaf binders for the Association's Journal are available from the Office at a cost of 13/9d. Each binder, with gold lettering on the spine, holds eight Journals.

NOTICE

The full list of Members of the Association which was to appear in this issue of the Journal has now been postponed until the July issue (Vol 9, No 1).