oblique, are not isolated with some special status as 'air photographs' but included
where they provide the best illustration of a particular point at a particular place. Similarly a few stereo-pairs are included in the text where appropriate. An intelligent use has been made of photographic techniques by the photographers; for example, a long focus lens is used to put river terraces in a regional context on p. 181, (photo by John Shelton).

It is clear that a great deal of thought and expertise has gone into the production of this book to attain such a high degree of clarity in the layout. It is interesting to see (on the final page) credits given to the designer, artist, two editors and the production supervisor. The only technical criticism is that in a few places in the review copy the ink is grey and gives a poor half-tone picture where contrast is low.

One must also mention the excellent use of topographic maps, every chapter containing at least one reproduction of part of a U.S. topographic map which illustrates clearly a geomorphological feature. This is perhaps the strongest single feature of the book, and if one were to examine only these illustrations there is hardly anyone who would not emerge with a better appreciation of the possibilities inherent in topographic map interpretation.

The brilliance of the illustrative side of this book outweighs the written text which, squeezing a great deal of information (and, it must be admitted, principles), out of an extensive literature leaves the result pretty flat and lifeless. Or perhaps it should be said that it is deliberately 'low key', and this may appeal to some readers. After all, why object if every sentence is immediately comprehensible and yields up its meaning without a struggle? It would be easy to read for one whose native language were not English, and it might suit the busy geophysicist seeking to acquaint himself with the elements of geomorphology. But it is not likely to stimulate his imagination much.

It can, however, certainly be recommended as a convenient reference text, especially as it has a 23-page glossary of geomorphological terms. It does not deal with the more mathematical developments in geomorphology, such as considerations of entropy or statistics.

It discusses, for the most part, geomorphology in North America, which is really no disadvantage considering the astonishing variety of regimes represented in that hemi-continent and the fine photographs available.

J. V. HEPWORTH

Concepts of the Universe

P. W. Hodge


This is a rather delightful little book which illustrates galactic and cosmological problems by means of diagrams. This is a useful way of illustrating problems to the interested reader and as such this volume ought to be in all school and university libraries. But it is just a little expensive even though a paperback edition does exist (at 34s.)—a cost of approximately 6d. per small page (4d. per page in paperback) is rather expensive for a popular book on a limited subject. Nevertheless I hope this book receives a wide readership as it must rank as a member of the better class of popular astronomical literature.

D. McNALLY