may aid in explaining the recent small squirrel migrations, one of which is described by Mr. Jackson, but it by no means satisfactorily explains the ancient myriad gray squirrel migrations. It is also interesting to note that some of these ancient migrations occurred in areas outside of the range of the red squirrel.[2]

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DISPOSAL OF PAPERS

IN clearing my shelves, I propose to make up about 25 incomplete sets of my occasional papers. These relate mainly to astronomical subjects, and for the most part are summaries of solar work. Should some of the readers of SCIENCE be interested to write me requesting them, I shall be glad to present them as long as they last.

C. G. ABBOT,
Secretary

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

QUOTATIONS

GERMAN SCIENCE GOOSE-STEPS

FEELING ran high during the World War among the science professors. French and German physicists were not easily reconciled. More recently we saw Soviet Russia trying to distinguish between capitalistic and communistic science and fanatically attempting to drag the dialectic materialism of Marx into the laboratory. But that there should be a mystic "Nordic" principle from which alone flows all that is fine in natural science, that Hindus, Greeks and Arabs should have contributed nothing to exact knowledge, that Einstein and relativity should be anathema because of his Semitic origin—it took the Third Reich to strike that note.

The controversy which is now being waged in Hitler's personal organ, the *Voelkische Beobachter,* on the superior qualities of "Nordic" research should make scientists everywhere blush for their vaunted objectivity. An obscure Willi Menzel may be dismissed when he trumpets the pre-eminence of "Aryan" science. But what shall be said when such leading physicists as Professor Johannes Stark and Philipp Lenard outdo him in blind hatred? Germany has sunk low indeed when it can found a new journal, *Deutsche Mathematik,* for no other purpose than that of substituting a narrow nationalism for the internationalism that has always ruled mathematics, when it is seriously proposed to change the inscription on one of the buildings of Heidelberg University from "Dem Lebendigen Geist" (To the Living Spirit) to "Dem Deutschen Geist," and when Nobel laureate Lenard can bring out the first volume of a great work on "Deutsche Physik" and dedicate it to Dr. Frick, Minister of the Interior, in this language:

> German Physics? one asks. I might rather have said Aryan Physics or the Physics of the Nordic Species of Man, the Physics of those who have plumbed the depths of Reality, seekers after Truth, the Physics of the very founders of Science. But I shall be answered, "Science is and remains international." It is false. Science, like every other human product, is racial and conditioned by blood.

High as anti-Semitism may run in the universities, Max Planck, Werner Heisenberg and Max von Laue reply to Stark and Lenard. Are theirs perhaps the more authentic voices? Evidently courage is not quite dead in the universities. Yet not since the time of Galileo has science been in such danger. It is impossible for a German biologist to write honestly on certain medical, anthropological or genetic topics without running the risk of imprisonment. Physics, mathematics, chemistry stepping out to Nazi music—it is a sad spectacle. With only approved meetings held in Germany and a Science Congress Center organized to trumpet the Nazi racial ideology at international scientific gatherings, the generous days when Japanese and Germans, Frenchmen and Americans, Italians and Scandinavians could meet and discuss science without a thought of country, race or religion seem almost like a nostalgic memory.—*The New York Times.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Europe. By SAMUEL VAN VALKENBURG and ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON. 651 pp., 139 maps, 14 pages of graphs, 6 pages of tables, separate English and foreign bibliographies and index. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1935. Price $4.50.

TEACHERS of the geography of Europe have reason to feel favored, for within the past two years several really teachable texts in the field have been published. Not only has the number been greatly increased, but the quality of the new books has been consistently high; hence when one says that the book written by Van Valkenburg and Huntington, with its well-balanced physical, economic and cultural approach, is the

[2] *Ibid.*

most readable and teachable geography book on Europe, it is indeed high praise.

The Van Valkenburg-Huntington combination is a fortunate one, for these internationally known geographers represent European and American schools of thought; they are veteran travelers; they represent teacher as well as seasoned writer; they represent vigorous youth and sage maturity. The text will certainly not disappoint those who seek good authority in books.

The painstaking efforts of these authorities have resulted in a book which can be readily accepted as trustworthy in facts presented as well as conclusions drawn.

The book is on the whole interestingly written. The material of many regions is presented so vividly and with such clarity that one can readily see the writer treads familiar ground. In a few places, however, the style tends to become over-factual and uninteresting.

The book is, with its basic study of Europe as a whole followed by a logical sequence of countries within major regions, essentially pedagogical. However, it might have been improved by placing a few of the chapters of part one at the end of the book to act as a résumé for the detailed regional studies. Neither the balance between physical, economic and cultural subject-matter nor the space allotted to the individual countries can be adversely criticized, but perhaps too much space (225 pages) is given to part one, "Europe as a Whole."

The large number of maps, many of which are original, is a distinct asset to the book. On the whole, the cartographic work is excellent, though a few maps could have been improved by using more distinctive types of cross lining. On the mineral production map one can scarcely distinguish between the full dots and the half dots. The reviewer is of the opinion that it is unfortunate that no pictures were included in the book. A limited number of well-chosen pictures would have been a valuable asset even were it necessary in that event to leave out a few maps.

The mechanical make-up of the book is of the usual high John Wiley and Sons standard.

GORDON G. DARKENWALD
HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

The Geographic Pattern of Mankind. By JOHN E. POMFRET, xix plus 428 pp. Appleton Century Company.

"THE Geographic Pattern of Mankind" in the words of the editor "provides an imposing array of 'cases' by which geographic principles may be tested or to which they may be applied." These cases are selected from many sections of the world and include Equatorial Africa, Java, India, China, Japan, Russia, the Mediterranean Lands, South America, the Caribbean Lands, the United States and Western Europe.

In describing the life and pointing out relationships in these areas, Mr. Pomfret easily holds the reader's interest with a wealth of intriguing factual material. In fact he excites the curiosity so much in several places that the reader wishes to learn more about the particular subject and looks for a footnote that may lead him to a source of wider knowledge. Here he is disappointed, for a dearth of references is available for either actual quotations or for much material that must have been gathered from outside sources.

Although a treatment of "cases" makes up the major portion of the volume, this section is preceded by four chapters concerned with the elements of geography—"Human Geography and Culture," "Primary Laws," "The Elements and Theory of Climate" and "Climatic Types." The author's idea of laying the groundwork for a clearer understanding of the chapters to follow seems commendable, yet he failed to include any discussion of soils and physiography, and in his treatment of climate he failed to call attention to any of the well-known climatic classifications. Moreover, the careful reader is likely to question several generalizations and statements which fall short of exactness, both in the beginning chapters and in that section of the book devoted to "cases."

In spite of the shortcomings just pointed out and regardless of the fact that the book marks no new pathway in geography or supplies little that is original in approach, it is worthy of some of the editor's praise—"it surveys with rare judgment the various elements of modern civilization and shows with keen appreciation of values the many ways in which man is adjusting himself to diverse physical environments in various parts of the earth."

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE INVASION OF THE BODY BY ANIMAL POISONS

THE bleb formed by the intradermal injection of saline extracts prepared from the ground bodies of spiders, bees or mosquitoes rapidly flattens out and the injected fluid spreads through a large area of the dermis. A similar bleb formed by the injection of water or saline solution remains localized until the fluid is absorbed. The contrast is brought out if some inert colored material, such as dilute India ink, is added. With such an indicator measurements taken after 24 hours show that the area of spread of the