Next high in 1939 in total numbers were books for juvenile readers, 34,848,416 volumes, compared with 29,336,530 volumes in 1937.

Statistics on other books, by class and number, for 1939 and 1937, are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Kind	1939	1937
Agriculture and related subjects	1,018,809	1,034,607
Biography	2,384,647	2,754,390
Fine arts	590,885	694,163
History	2,306,829	1,238,806
Law	2,356,395	2,448,165
Medicine	1,868,892	3,923,532
Music (musical notations)	5,682,042	6,722,598
Poetry and drama	1,499,477	1,788,541
Religion and philosophy	6,413,606	6,944,102
Sociology and economics	886,751	1,156,885
Travel and geography	1,482,138	1,641,931
Reference	6,716,403	3,841,442
Miscellaneous	16,196,422	23,367,371
Bluebooks, directories, catalogues, etc.	7,724,351	4,280,525

Publication of pamphlets more than doubled in number, with a 1939 total of 540,536,202, compared with 216,847,761 in 1937.

Maps, atlases and globe covers published in 1939 numbered 64,309,275, compared with 103,867,467 in 1937.

A. W. VON STRUVE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

PRESERVATION OF THE CONTINUITY OF THE SCIENTIFIC RECORD

UPON us in the more fortunate continents where research in pure science can still go on there surely rests an obligation to do all we can in aid of our colleagues abroad. The exigencies of the immediate situation are sufficiently clear, but it is now none too early to plan for aid in the restoration of pure science abroad after the war.

Specifically, foreign subscriptions to American scientific journals have fallen off. This means that the continuity of files in foreign libraries may be broken, irretrievably unless the situation is planned for now, and much that is being accomplished by American scientists and by Europeans working in America will be unavailable to the scientists abroad who return after the war to their depleted laboratories and impoverished libraries. Are the publishers and editorial boards of American journals setting aside enough extra copies of their current numbers so that the broken files abroad may be made complete after the war?

Each scientist in this country must know of colleagues abroad with common interests. Are we each buying enough extra reprints of current articles to supply at a more propitious time those abroad who work in our fields? By clear thinking and decisive action on these and related questions much might be done to restore the free culture of science which is now so hard pressed in much of the world.

STUART MUDD

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

RECENT BOOKS IN GEOGRAPHY

AT a time when wide-spread military conquest and a series of international crises have once again focused attention on geography, it is significant to note the appearance of five books in that field between August and December, 1940. Four are revisions of earlier texts, but the fifth is a completely new work.

As a popular treatise of the subject by a professional geographer, Roderick Peattie's "Geography in Human Destiny" (323 pages and 26 illustrations. New York: George W. Stewart. 1940. $3.50) should prove of special interest to those who have had only a grade-school or high-school acquaintance with formal geography.

After introductory chapters on the nature and content of his field, Professor Peattie proceeds to trace the environmental thread in human activity from the Paleolithic Age to the present moment, or, as he regretfully suggests, from "stone ax to dive bomber." He develops his philosophy in a direct and simple, if not highly polished style, and enriches the discussion with frequent citations from broad personal experience and the pens of others. The volume is concluded by comments on the geographic basis of national conservation and a brief treatment of the author's concept of "The Geography of Peace." An interesting feature is the list of further readings of a popular nature which appears at the end.

While some geographers may shrink from its rather strongly environmentalistic tone, and others may doubt the appropriateness of the chapter on evolution, the fundamental soundness of "Geography in Human Destiny" is beyond question. Total lack of pictorial illustration is the greatest shortcoming of the book. Although it contains twenty-six well-executed maps, charts and physiographic diagrams by Arthur Robinson, the many opportunities for clinching arguments or making points more effective through the use of well-selected photographs have been ignored by either the author or the publisher.

Principles of Human Geography. By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON. Fifth edition. 594+xxiv pp. 70 maps, 26 diagrams, 2 plates and numerous tables

and photographs. New York: John Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall. 1940. $3.50.

FOUR times revised and now largely rewritten, "Principles of Human Geography" should well serve its purpose as a comprehensive elementary text on the college level. Of the nine parts that comprise the volume, seven are devoted to man's relationship to the major elements of natural environment, an eighth deals with his relationship to regional complexes, and the last treats with the fundamentals of political geography and international relations. Because of its timeliness, this final section, greatly enlarged and fresh, should find favor with the general reader as well as the student.

Some may feel that too much emphasis is placed on the influence of climate upon human activity throughout the book, the effects of other elements, *viz.*, land and water bodies, topography, soil and vegetation seeming unduly minimized. A well-balanced discussion of the composite influences of natural environment on mass migrations and the diffusion of peoples would not be amiss.

An innovation is the system of referring to the many illustrations. Each reference in the text carries a letter and number, such as "A380," the letter denoting the particular map, chart or photograph on the page designated by the number. In the absence of a conventional table of illustrations, it is unfortunate that the index is incomplete and inaccurate.

Maps and diagrams are well drafted, but the photographs, which are better than average, are not always well placed; *e.g.*, it is difficult to see the connection between a picture of the river-front at Benares, India, and the paragraph on rice production with which it is associated. Among other pedagogic suggestions, the "Note to the Teacher" contains a list of supplementary references.

Principles of Economic Geography. By ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON. 715 + x pp.; 160 maps, 60 diagrams, 50 tables and 2 plates. New York: John Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall. 1940. $4.00.

BY the same author, this book closely resembles "Principles of Human Geography" in style and philosophy. Huntington's smoothness and facility of expression lend to both a literary quality not generally found in text-books.

Beginning with an analysis of a sample product, rubber, the author treats systematically the economic geography of plants, animals and minerals. Ensuing parts are devoted to "The Soil and Its Use," "Problems of Relief and Erosion," "The Human Factor," "Food and Diet" and "The Geography of High Productivity." Kinds and distribution of manufacturing, economic functions of cities, paths of commerce and the geographic basis of world trade form the subject-matter of other chapters.

A discussion of the foreign commerce of the United States, especially valuable for its portrayal of the dynamic nature of economic geography, concludes the text. The accompanying bibliography is well selected, and the many good maps, which are thoroughly integrated with the written material, compensate for the absence of photographs.

Dr. Huntington has drawn freely from the earlier "Economic and Social Geography," on which he collaborated with Frank E. Williams and Samuel Van Valkenburg, and these men are considered as assistant authors along with Stephen S. Visher, who criticized the new manuscript.

Economic Geography of South America. By the late R. H. WHITBECK and FRANK E. WILLIAMS. Third edition. 469 + xi pp. Numerous maps, charts, diagrams and photographs. New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Company. 1940. $3.50.

THIS volume has been revised by the junior author, assisted by William F. Christians, and the material of the earlier editions has been expanded, re-arranged and brought up to date. Although strictly economic geography, it is written from the view-point of world production and consumption, without regard to the internal economic geography of South America.

The treatment is rather encyclopedic, and the many facts would benefit from a frame. Organization is by countries, but each is discussed from its own individual perspective, thus making comparison difficult. Similarly, the trade graphs, a useful feature, are not on the same scale.

Natural conditions are rather lightly touched upon, and many statements leave the reader without the geographic connection. An example is the statement that cabinet wood is hard to get out of the jungle, without mention of the lack of roads due to marsh and teeming vegetation, or of the high specific gravity of many woods, which makes it impossible to float the logs to market.

The concluding chapter, "South America as a Whole," and especially the part comparing that continent with North America, is both useful and interesting. A fairly extensive bibliography follows the text. The illustrations are numerous and generally effective.

College Geography. By EARL C. CASE and DANIEL R. BERGSMARK. Second edition. 767 + ix pp. Numerous maps, charts, graphs, photographs and one plate. New York: John Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall. 1940. $4.00.

MAJOR improvements in the new edition of "College Geography," which is designed for courses in world

geography, principles of geography or economic geography, consist of a more logical arrangement of chapters, vitalization and expansion of the text and a thorough overhauling of illustrative material. Numerous unnecessary charts and graphs have been deleted or replaced by more useful maps, and the references at the close of each chapter have been brought up to date.

A general discussion of the all-important geographic factor of location and space relationship opens the volume, and is followed by chapters on human relationships to climate, soils and land forms. The larger part of the book is devoted to the regional geography of the several climatic realms, with emphasis on the commercial aspects of agriculture, pastoral activities and the extractive plant and animal industries. Later chapters take up mineral resources and industries, transportation and world trade.

Because of difficulties inherent in the attempt to combine two phases of geography, "College Geography" may give the elementary student a confused and perhaps distorted view of the content of the field. Introduction of the regional organization breaks the thread of the systematic approach to the elements of economic geography. Conversely, the emphasis on economic factors in the regional treatment and the relative lack of discussion of the broader aspects of population distribution, kinds and patterns of human settlements and the geographic foundations of other non-economic cultural phenomena present an incomplete picture of general world geography. Probably this fundamental incompatibility can never be resolved.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW SCIENCE GROUP IN THE SOUTH

DELEGATES from practically all the scientific organizations of the South and representatives in scientific and industrial fields of eleven southern states met in Mobile to discuss the need for closer coordination among existing scientific groups and the advisability of forming a new organization.

For years it had been increasingly apparent that despite the existence of very worth-while local, state and regional scientific bodies, very little was actually being done to coordinate and integrate the activities of these organizations and practically nothing, to learn and attack the problems common if not peculiar to the South.

A year ago at the annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science, it was agreed that the academy sponsor a gathering of Southern scientists and industrialists in connection with their 1941 meeting to be held at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. A committee was named and what was but an idea in 1940 is now a reality.

Through the untiring efforts of Dr. George D. Palmer, chairman of the committee on Southern Scientists' Organization, the intensive work of the steering committee meeting on March 19 and those who attended the many business sessions on March 20 and 21, the South now boasts a Southern Association for the Advancement of Science.

For the immediate work of organization, Dr. G. D. Palmer, of the University of Alabama, and Father A. J. Westland, S.J., of Spring Hill College, were named chairman and secretary, respectively, and were authorized to select the committees deemed necessary and prepare the agenda for the successive business sessions. To outline even briefly the reports of all the committees and the spirited discussion that ensued would require more space than was allotted. The recommendations of the nominating committee that were unanimously adopted follow: To Dr. Palmer was accorded the honor of being designated founder and first president of the new group; L. C. Bird, of Richmond, Va., was elected first vice-president, and Fr. Anthony J. Westland, S.J., of Spring Hill College, was named first secretary. These officials were to function only during the Mobile meeting and were named for the distinction of being the society's first officers. As incoming officers, Dr. W. F. Rudd, of the Medical College of Virginia, was elected president, Milton H. Fies, Birmingham, industrialist, vice-president. Dr. G. D. Palmer was named secretary-treasurer to serve three years, and Dr. G. H. Boyd, of the University of Georgia, was chosen president-elect.

It is believed by those responsible for the newly formed organization that the Southern Association for the Advancement of Science is not just another science association but one with a unique and individual character. The proposed objectives may be summarized as follows:

(1) To organize Southern science to cope with Southern problems.

(2) To recognize the fundamental importance of agricultural, industrial and academic research and assemble evidence which would demand a coordinated effort of these three fields in the solving of Southern problems, thus achieving both an efficient conservation and exploitation of all natural resources.

(3) To maintain, various pressing practical problems notwithstanding, the general concept that science trans-