

lars for the annual subscription. There are but few journals—perhaps no scientific journals—of the size of SCIENCE that are supplied at such a moderate rate. The subscription to *Nature* is £4"10s"0d.

The expenses of SCIENCE, according to the audit report of 1940 (the report for 1941 is not yet ready), adding \$10,000 as the estimated value of the editorial work, are \$68,439. In 1941 there were 15,185 subscribers, making the cost of supplying the journal to each subscriber \$4.51. It is possible to supply the journal to members of the association for three dollars each only on account of libraries and other subscribers who pay the regular subscription price of \$6.00, and principally on account of receipts from advertising, which in 1940 amounted to \$33,297.

These advertisements are not only of value to advertisers, but are also useful to readers of the journal. One of the most distinguished scientific men in America paid a doubtful compliment to SCIENCE by writing that he found the advertisements the most interesting and useful part of the journal. Great care is taken by the editor to admit to the advertising pages only announcements that are regarded as promoting the advancement of science. Not only does SCIENCE contain no advertising of tobacco and liquors, but there are no announcements of automobiles and other products of scientific invention which might be

regarded as of interest to scientific men. Every effort is used to make the advertisements informative and not primarily competitive. Advertisements are not accepted that make extravagant claims, and advertisers cooperate with the journal in presenting their announcements in a scientific and dignified form, such as is in place in a journal such as SCIENCE.

SCIENCE has been the official journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1900; during this period the membership of the association has increased from about 1,200 to more than 23,000. Since the agreement of 1938, SCIENCE has been the property of the association, though the present editor retains control until he dies or voluntarily relinquishes it. The control will then be taken over by the association and will rest in the hands of members of the executive committee and of the council. Like the present editor they will doubtless realize the importance for the advancement of science in America of intimate and cordial relations between scientific workers and those who publish their work and those who supply them with the necessary apparatus and supplies. Scientific progress is the joint product of research men and manufacturers. This is notably the case in the great industrial laboratories on whose knees lies the future of science and civilization.

EDITOR

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY

The Second Yearbook of Research and Statistical Methodology Books and Reviews. Edited by Oscar Krisen Buros. xxii + 383 pages. Highland Park, New Jersey: The Gryphon Press. 1941. \$5.00.

IN 1625 Francis Bacon, in his essay "Of Studies," wrote: "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts, others to be read, but not curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention." Had he lived to-day, he might have added that some books ought not to be read at all. At no time in the past has there ever been such a need for guidance in selecting books for reading, study or reference. Presumably, book reviews are written to provide such advice. If this is the case, then a reviewer is placed by his role in a position of trust; especially when his prominence is such as to give special importance to his opinions. It is regrettable, therefore, when prominent individuals write inconclusive reviews of books the subject-matter of which is well within the domain of their proficiency. It is likewise unfortunate when reviewers venture outside their competence. Nowhere are these

regrettable occurrences more prevalent than in the reviewing of books on statistical theory and methodology. Furthermore, the consequences are serious, for the majority of readers and users of statistical text-books and manuals are not qualified to judge the validity, accuracy or limitations of the material before them. In selecting a book on statistical theory or methodology, it is often necessary at the present time to examine several reviews of the same book. This comparison of evaluative statements appearing in diverse journals and periodicals is greatly facilitated by the book under discussion here.

"The Second Yearbook of Research and Statistical Methodology Books and Reviews," like the first volume of this series,¹ is a collection of book review excerpts. By the editor's count, "The Second Yearbook" contains one thousand six hundred and fifty-two review excerpts from two hundred and eighty-three journals compared to six hundred and thirty-five review excerpts from one hundred and thirty-one journals in the first volume." Only one journal, *Economica*, did not grant permission to excerpt its reviews; suitable

¹ "Research and Statistical Methodology Books and Reviews of 1933-1938." Edited by Oscar Krisen Buros. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press. 1938. \$1.25.

reviews in this journal consequently have been indexed but not excerpted. The journals utilized represent a wide variety of fields: accountancy, actuarial science, agriculture, anthropology, business, biology, economics, education, engineering, entomology, eugenics, forestry, general science, genetics, mathematics, medicine, philosophy, physics, plant pathology, political science, psychology, public health, sociology, statistics, veterinary science, and others. A directory of these periodicals is provided for the first time, and in it are listed the editor's name, the location of the editorial offices, the number of issues per year, the price, the name of the organization of which the journal is the official organ, etc. Other new features are a publishers' directory and the addition of authors' names as catchwords in the running heads at the top of each page. As the books are arranged in alphabetical sequence according to authors, the last-mentioned feature greatly facilitates reference to the books by a particular author. The index of names provided does not distinguish in its references between books and book reviews by the individual concerned and could be made more useful by printing in different kinds of type the numbers which designate books and book reviews by a given individual. An index of titles, a classified index and a publishers' index and directory are provided also.

"The Second Yearbook" lists three hundred and fifty-nine books written in English and published in 1933 or since, the great majority accompanied by at least one review excerpt. About one third of these were listed previously in the first volume and are included again in accordance with the policy to continue listing books in successive yearbooks as long as new reviews appear. In such cases references are given to the reviews appearing in the first volume. The excerpts in "The Second Yearbook" are longer and more informative than those in the first volume of this series. Other improvements are a better format, larger type and a more natural numbering system—the curious system employed in the first volume was bewildering to many users. "The Second Yearbook" is on the whole a marked improvement over the first of the series. The editor seems to have profited from the reviews of the first volume, excerpts from these reviews being included in the present volume.

The objectives of this yearbook series in its present form are listed in the preface as follows:

(a) To make students and teachers of statistics more keenly aware of the inadequacy of much of what is now presented in text-books and classes despite the fact that such statistical techniques are incorrect, inefficient, and obsolete. (b) To help students, teachers, and librarians to select text-books with greater discrimination. (c) To point out to students and teachers the weak and strong points of particular books. (d) To assist more advanced students in keeping abreast of modern developments in

monograph and textbook writing and criticism. (e) To encourage research workers to consider and examine methodology books intended for workers in other fields and also books on general history of science, scientific method, and the social relations of science. (f) To emphasize that there are usually marked differences of opinion even among the more advanced students of statistical theory in their appraisal of a particular book. (g) To indicate the vast extension of fields in which statistical techniques are being found useful and necessary. (h) To discourage the writing and publication of stereotyped textbooks written by persons ignorant of modern developments in statistical theory. (i) To make readily available important and provocative statements which, though appearing in book reviews, have considerable value entirely apart from a consideration of the book under review. (j) To improve the quality of reviews by stimulating editors to take greater pains to choose competent reviewers who have the industry and the courage to contribute frankly critical reviews following a careful study of the book being reviewed. (k) To improve the quality of book reviews by stimulating reviewers "to take their responsibilities more seriously" by refusing to review books which they cannot, or will not, appraise competently and honestly.

In pursuing these objectives the editor of "The Second Yearbook" has been limited by the extent to which the reviewers themselves made these their goals—he could only quote from what was before him. "The quotations represent the critical portions of all reviews which could be located, even though some of these reviews seemed to have been written by persons who either were incompetent to appraise the book under review or were unwilling to speak frankly. [The aim has been] to present in an unbiased manner the evaluative comments contained in all reviews which [could be located]. The amount of space devoted to excerpts for a given book is in direct proportion to the number of evaluative reviews located and not necessarily to the importance of the book." As a result of this editorial policy, "The Second Yearbook" is somewhat encumbered with inconclusive excerpts from inconclusive reviews. While this may be all right from the viewpoints of objectives (j) and (k), it greatly dulls the effectiveness of "The Second Yearbook" as a guide in the selection of books, *i.e.*, from the viewpoints of objectives (a) to (c). The present reviewer feels that the editor would do well in the preparation of future yearbooks to strive for maximum guidance in the selection of books, by including only the most informative and provocative statements, leaving objectives (j) and (k) to be attained indirectly through his presentation of examples of good reviewing.

The excerpting seems to have been done without noticeable bias. From a comparison of numerous excerpts with the original reviews, it can be said that on the whole the excerpts faithfully reflect the

opinions of the original reviewers relative to the authors' choices of subject matter and their presentation of it. By making available in one place some really evaluative statements originally appearing in very diverse journals, the editor has rendered a great service to all who try to select the best from the mass of current literature on statistical theory and methods. Incidentally, from a comparison of some of the reviews presented here, the present reviewer wonders whether it might not be desirable in certain instances to have reviews jointly written by an expert on the theory involved and a person experienced in the field of application.

While the excerpts in "The Second Yearbook" provide a good summary of the reviewers' opinions of a given book, they generally fail to give an adequate guide to its contents, even when all excerpts for this same book are viewed collectively. In most instances the original reviews contained a listing of the contents, but these portions were generally omitted in the excerpts. Since such information is most essential for objectives (a) to (c), the present reviewer feels that the editor should devise some scheme for including this information in future yearbooks.

On account of its cost, which really is not excessive considering the work involved, it is unlikely that "The Second Yearbook" will find its way into the libraries of all persons interested in statistical theory and methodology. On the other hand, it should be available in departmental libraries of all departments employing statistical methods in their research, and, on account of its fairly comprehensive listing of books on history of science and scientific method, it should be a useful volume in almost every scientific library. As noted above, only books written in English are included in the present volume, but the editor comments, "If 'The Second Yearbook' is well received, foreign-language books will probably be included in the next yearbook." The continuation and improvement of this yearbook series are thus placed squarely on the shoulders of the scientific public.

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CLINICAL PELLAGRA

Clinical Pellagra. By SEALE HARRIS. 494 pp. 66 figures. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1941.

THIS book is the first on pellagra by an American author in more than twenty years—a period during which there has been greater progress in our knowledge of the disease than in all the rest of the history of pellagra. It therefore covers a most important period for the reader who has not closely followed the technical literature.

The author has been closely connected with the

pellagra problem in this country from the discovery of the endemic disease here to the present time, although most of his work was done in the earlier period. The book is primarily one for the clinician, and the sections covering the symptoms and treatment are the most valuable. The book is beautifully illustrated, thus enhancing its value to those interested in the deficiency diseases. The number of excellent photographs of the various lesions of pellagra constitute the best published collection.

The chapters written by the author's collaborators lend much weight to the work and present the views of other centers. The chapter on Pellagra in Childhood by Dr. Katharine Dodd deals with a phase of the disease which previously has been greatly neglected. The presentation of the research work of the investigators at the University of Georgia and Duke University adds materially to the completeness of presentation but necessarily results in some repetition.

Much of the first three sections of fourteen chapters is taken up with a consideration of former theories about the etiology of pellagra, which have now been discarded. The chapters on history and epidemiology are interestingly written and he writes very entertainingly on the history of the disease in this country. His easy style and personal experiences add an attractive flavor to this section of the book, which is infrequently found in medical books.

The chapter on pathology is exceptionally short (9 pages) and sketchy in comparison with the other portions of the book.

Dr. Harris includes an unusual section entitled, "Plagues from Devitaminized Foods," which is a philosophical discussion on the wide use of refined foods in this country. He contends that the vitamin fad is not good for the general population and his insistence that proper dietary habits would solve the problem is entirely sound from a theoretical point of view.

The author frankly states that many of the ideas expressed are his own and not always in accord with other observers. He states that alcohol is one of the important factors in the causation of pellagra because of its hepatotoxic action and the consequent disturbance of storage or utilization of vitamins. He feels that the last word has not been said in regard to nicotinic acid, and many would disagree with his point of view that pellagra is no longer a major health problem in the South. There is some tendency to generalize on scanty evidence which detracts from the value of the book. Some space is given over to discussing the attitude of the rest of the country to the diseases of the South and how they have been enormously emphasized to the detriment of that section.

The book is especially recommended to nutritionists