Yes, survival is at stake—not merely personal and individual survival but the survival of our nation, of other nations, and of civilization itself.

The facts assembled in this book provide a vision of what atomic energy can do in a world which uses it for constructive and peaceful purposes. But these same facts point to the inescapable conclusion that while "the nations of the world can have atomic energy and much more, they cannot have it in a world where war may come."

MORRIS C. LEIKIND
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

The Royal Society 1660–1940: a history of its administration under its charters. Sir Henry Lyons, F.R.S. Cambridge: At the Univ. Press; New York: Macmillan, 1944. Pp. x + 354. (Out of print.)

As the late Sir Henry Lyons has stated in his Introduction, this is not the complete history of the Royal Society: "This account of the way in which the Society carried on its business at different periods will provide the groundwork for a fuller discussion of its influence on the advancement of science; it also records the conditions under which the more eminent of its Fellows carried out their researches and discoveries. The complete history of the Society has not yet been undertaken, and it may well require the united efforts of several workers to deal with so wide a field of activity."

Nevertheless, this book contains a surprising amount of information about the origin of the Society and the 280 years of science in England since its establishment. Many interesting sidelights of scientific history are interspersed between the discussions of the financial problems and administrative organization of the Society which are its principal concern. It is amusing to learn, for example, that the Royal Society was accused of taking sides with the American colonists during the Revolution because it advocated the use of Benjamin Franklin's pointed lightning rods, and that the King himself tried to persuade the Society to rescind its resolution.

Although the original founders of the Royal Society were mostly scientists who met for the purpose of critically examining new discoveries and theories, the scientific purpose of the Society was often lost sight of, and scientists were actually in the minority until 1860. Even Samuel Pepys was president (a good one, to be sure) during the two years when Newton's *Principia* was being published. Incidentally, it was Sir Isaac Newton, first man of science to be knighted, who was responsible for the fact that the Royal Society now meets on Thursdays, since he was occupied at the mint on Wednesdays (the Society's original meeting day) during the first years of his presidency. Despite the presidencies of such well-known men of science as Newton and Sir Joseph Banks, the Royal Society was more of a cultural than a scientific institution until the middle of the Nineteenth Century. Since 1860, however, the Society has become the leader of scientific thought in Great Britain and a unique institution in the world of science. Like all venerable institutions, it is sometimes slow to

change, and it is something of a shock to learn that the uncomfortable benches in use for generations were not replaced until 1939, when "others of modern type more suitable for meetings which lasted long and demanded the close attention of the audience" were installed.

As treasurer of the Royal Society for many years, Sir Henry Lyons had access to its records and was well qualified to write its administrative history. The great wealth of information in this book concerning the finances and administration of the Royal Society make it particularly useful to specialists in the history of science. Inasmuch as there has been no comprehensive history of the Society for a hundred years, the book should also be of interest to those who are not specialists for it is much more than a treasurer's report. Each chapter has a useful short bibliography and there is an excellent index. It is to be regretted that this book was published in such a small edition that it is already out of print.

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B-Chloroethyl Amines and Sulfides

(Continued from p. 415.)

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[1] The majority of the references cited above are to classified documents which are not generally available. Reference is therefore made to authors and the time at which their work was conducted. Those references preceded by an asterisk refer to unpublished British work.