

libraries, museums, educational institutions, and other organizations related to the business of learning, the book provides basic information about practically every significant organization in 72 countries of the world, as well as in the overseas empires of France and Great Britain.

Inevitably, the performance is uneven, and the reader can readily understand why: The officers of some organizations fail to answer questions and questionnaires; some learned societies are so obscure as to be relatively unknown outside the confines of their own country or their own discipline; others are in the throes of political upheaval, as is the case with the "world of learning" in China.

The editors confess their inability to deal with the kind of problem confronting them in China, and they have virtually repeated the information contained in the third edition of 1950. They have added a few notes regarding recently formed societies and institutions of learning in Taiwan (Formosa), but it is evident that the information is fragmentary and must remain so for some time to come.

The reader may wonder why the complete membership lists of the Royal Society, the National Academy of Sciences, and l'Institut de France are given; or why a complete roster of the professors at Universidad Nacional del Litoral (Santa Fé, Argentina) or at Amherst or at Harvard is given, whereas comparable information about Wellesley and Syracuse University is missing—to pick random examples. Or why the Rockefeller Foundation rates 21 lines, whereas the Brookings Institution gets three, and the American Philosophical Society five. Yet even with these discrepancies in treatment, essential information is given regarding the existence, the location, and the officers of virtually every important organization related to learning, although the reviewer's impression is that the sciences fare somewhat better than the humanities.

A most intriguing feature of the book is the opportunity it affords for the comparison of culture and learning from one country to another. One wonders, for example, whether the half-page devoted to Haiti is a measure of the degree of culture attained in that republic as compared with the 86 pages devoted to the United Kingdom, the 147 devoted to the United States, and the 24 used to list the learned institutions in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is equally interesting to study the organization of learning in the countries behind the Iron Curtain, all of which are given space and reasonably good coverage. A few countries are missing. Liberia is one of them, and Ethiopia is another, although it does not necessarily follow that these countries are completely devoid of learning and culture; they may merely lack the degree of organization, and perhaps the press-agentry, that may have been responsible for the inclusion of complete faculty lists for some U. S. colleges and universities that play a relatively minor role in American learning.

The critical remarks that have been made here are not to be taken as reflections upon this significant

volume. On the contrary, anyone who is at all concerned with organized learning, whether it be in the United States or in the world at large, will find this an indispensable book, and, as this review illustrates, it is likely to lead its possessor into unexpected byways of inquiry and speculation.

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Scientific Book Register

An Explorer-Scientist's Pilgrimage: The Autobiography of William Herbert Hobbs. Ann Arbor, Mich: Edwards, 1952. 222 pp. \$3.75.

Heterocyclic Compounds. Vol. 3, *Polycyclic Derivatives of Pyrrole; Polycyclic Systems with One Nitrogen Common to Both Rings; Pyrindine and Related Compounds.* Vol. 4, *Quinoline, Isoquinoline, and Their Benzo Derivatives.* Robert C. Elderfield, Ed. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1952. Vol. 3, 442 pp., \$12.00; Vol. 4, 674 pp., \$17.00.

Adrenal Cortex. Transactions of the third conference, November 15-16, 1951, New York. Elaine P. Ralli, Ed. New York: Josiah Macy Jr. Fdn., 1952. 204 pp. \$3.25.

Excavations at Nebaj, Guatemala, Pub. 594. A. Ledyard Smith and Alfred V. Kidder, with notes on skeletal material by T. D. Stewart. Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1951. 90 pp. and 90 figs. \$6.00; \$5.25, paper.

The Physical Principles of Thermodynamics: A Treatise for Students of Theoretical and Experimental Physics. R. A. Smith. London: Chapman & Hall, 1952. 280 pp. 30s.

Vinyl and Related Polymers. Their preparations, properties, and applications in rubbers, plastics, fibers, and in medical and industrial arts. Calvin E. Schildknecht. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1952. 723 pp. \$12.50.

Allgemeine Pflanzenkaryologie. Vol. II, 2nd half, *Kernteilung und Kernverschmelzung*, Sections 1-3. 2nd ed. Georg Tischler. Berlin-Nikolassee: Naturwissenschaftlicher Verlag, 1951. Sec. 1, 384 pp., DM 58; Sec. 2, 336 pp., DM 48; Sec. 3, 320 pp., DM 32. Illus.

Cosmology. H. Bondi. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1952. 179 pp. \$4.50.

New Means of Studying Color Blindness and Normal Foveal Color Vision: With Some Results and Their Genetical Implications. Publications in Psychology, Vol. 7, No. 1. Gordon L. Walls and Ravenna W. Mathews. Berkeley: Univ. California Press, 1952. 172 pp. \$2.50.

Proceedings of the Pan-African Congress on Prehistory, 1947. L. S. B. Leakey, Ed. New York: Philosophical Library, 1952. 239 pp. \$8.75.

The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds: Five-Membered Heterocyclic Compounds with Nitrogen and Sulfur or Nitrogen, Sulfur, and Oxygen (except Thiazole). L. L. Bambas; Arnold Weissberger, Consulting Ed. New York-London: Interscience, 1952. 403 pp. \$14.00; \$12.60 by subscription.

Biochemical Preparations, Vol. 2. Eric G. Ball, Ed. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1952. 109 pp. \$3.00.

Practical Psychology. Rev. ed. F. K. Berrien. New York: Macmillan, 1952. 640 pp. \$5.00.