A SERIOUS omission in Dr. Bates' article on "The Criticism of Scientific Books" (SCIENCE, **115**, 407 [1952]) is the important contribution of libraries to the publicizing of books.

Although approving Dr. Bates' suggestion that a journal such as SCIENCE should develop its book reviewing department to a greater extent, I feel that a better answer to the problem of keeping informed of new publications in science and other fields of knowledge is by continued use of the library. One visit by a general or specialized reader to a progressive public, university, or special library will convince him that libraries are no longer keepers of books, but rather promoters of books. Such a visit will very likely provide the book itself, many reviews of the book, and other material on the same subject.

I believe, also, that Dr. Bates is overly harsh in his opinion of the quality of book reviews. At least one exception to his statement that "all books on science get about the same treatment . . ." is the title *The Atom at Work,* by Jacob Sacks. This volume was selected by R. R. Hawkins, head, Science and Technology Department, New York Public Library, as one of the 100 essential technical books of 1950–51 (*Library J.,* **76**, 811 [1951]).

Nine reviews of this book were written by science librarians, scientists, and a science editor, as well as an unsigned review appearing in the *Saturday Review of Literature.* Certainly this is excellent coverage of a good book by a variety of qualified reviewers. Not one of the nine reviews mentioned "faulty documentation," "misprints," or "howlers." One review mentioned the index—not as "inadequate" but as "good."

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Book Reviews

King Solomon's Ring: New Light on Animal Ways. Konrad Z. Lorenz; trans. from the German by Marjorie Kerr Wilson. New York: Crowell, 1952. 202 pp. $3.50.

Only rarely does one encounter a book such as this. Konrad Lorenz is one of the world's outstanding naturalists, and here we have evidence that he is also an excellent narrator. Other men have learned to know certain species of animals as well as Lorenz knows his jackdaws, graylag geese, or ravens—you can find their reports in various technical journals—but the fact that Lorenz is a missionary of natural history sets him apart. He likes animals for what they are and he candidly states that this book is aimed at leading others to learn to like them.

With infinite patience, Lorenz has "kept" colonies of free-flying birds, an aquarium housing water shrews, and numerous other animals. His observations have been keen, and his descriptions comprehensive. He has successfully resisted the many temptations to anthropomorphize and yet he makes the reader aware of the mental and physical individuality of his subjects. After reading the chapter recording his 25 years with "The Perennial Retainers"—his jackdaws—you feel that you know them, as individuals and as a species.

There are times when Dr. Lorenz seems to generalize somewhat more than he should. His dismissal of the golden eagle as an "extremely stupid" creature, apparently on the basis of a single imperial eagle which he bought from a wandering menagerie, seems overly harsh. Certainly he demonstrates individual differences among other groups that he studied. These are but minor lapses, however.

In a way, this is a book of instruction. Dr. Lorenz lectures us, subtly, on morals, on pity, on laughter, all with animals as examples. His chapters on "Animals as a Nuisance," "Poor Fish," "Laughing at Animals," "Pitying Animals," and "Buying Animals" are all directed toward improving our relations with animals and, indirectly, with our fellow-men.

The title, based on the charming bit of folklore which supposed that Solomon talked to the animals, may result in some loss of readership, since it is rather abstruse. On the other hand, it may gain converts, since this is a book that, once picked up, is difficult to put down.

Julian Huxley's foreword is excellent, as might be expected. Marjorie Kerr Wilson's translation is smooth and unobtrusive. The illustrative sketches, which apparently are the author's, are both amusing and enlightening. I recommend the book to everyone.

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Miscellaneous Physical and Chemical Techniques of the Los Alamos Project: Experimental Techniques. Alvin C. Graves and Darol K. Froman, Eds. New York–London: McGraw-Hill, 1952. 323 pp. $4.00.

The third volume from Division 5 (Los Alamos) in the National Nuclear Energy series is a collection of miscellaneous physical and chemical techniques used in the early phases of the atomic energy project and originally collected as a laboratory manual for new personnel on the project. It was written by a group of 18 authors. The contents should be of especial interest to those working in nuclear physics with high energy machines: cyclotrons, van de Graaf generators, etc.

To give an idea of the scope of the book it is necessary to outline the contents of the six chapters. The

first chapter describes various methods of preparation of thin foils, especially uranium and plutonium, and also methods of making thin uniform foils of many other materials and compounds. The second discusses neutron sources, including natural sources (Ra-Be, etc.), and monoenergetic neutrons from charged particle reactions (essentially the same as the article in *Revs. Modern Phys.*, **21**, 635 [1949]). It includes the measurement and calibration of neutron sources and a detailed description of the construction of a BF_3 filled proportional counter. The third chapter gives the elementary theory of the betatron, a brief description of betatron construction and operating circuits, and a method of using the betatron for the production of isolated pulses of γ-rays. The fourth chapter discusses the modulation of cyclotron beams by arc modulation, and deflection modulation, the modulation of Cockroft-Walton and van de Graaf generators by deflection of the ion beam, and the use of these modulated beams in a slow neutron time-of-flight spectrometer. The fifth chapter contains descriptions of two diffusion pumps used in the project and of various types of vacuum seals and bushings. It also discusses the vacuum evaporation of metals. The sixth chapter covers optical methods and instruments, principally oscillograph cameras and high-speed cameras of various designs.

This short résumé can give only a general idea of the contents of the book. There are more than 160 figures. Many of these are detailed construction drawings, complete circuit diagrams, and graphs. The remainder are photographs, sketches, and block diagrams.

The book is clearly written, and the descriptions of the various techniques are quite complete, including sketches and detailed diagrams. Although some of the techniques are outdated, on the whole the book should make a valuable addition to the experimental physics library.

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Association Affairs

Revision of the AAAS Constitution and Bylaws

Howard A. Meyerhoff, *Administrative Secretary*

WHEN the Association met at St. Louis in 1946, one of the important actions taken was the adoption of a new constitution (SCIENCE, **103**, 245 [1946]). It was recognized that the Association's bylaws should have been revised simultaneously so as to conform with the new constitution, but it was not until 1950 that any serious attempt was made to harmonize bylaws and constitution. At that time a committee comprising Kirtley F. Mather, *Chairman,* Clarence E. Davies, Karl Lark-Horovitz, Roger Adams, and Howard A. Meyerhoff, *Secretary,* turned to the task but soon concluded that the 1946 constitution required amendment or replacement. In many particulars it was so specific as to usurp the function of bylaws and, in prescribing certain administrative procedures, it was not only at variance with current practice but precluded the flexibility that is essential to the efficient conduct of business in an organization as large as the AAAS.

At Cleveland, on December 29, 1950, the Council authorized the committee to revise the constitution, in addition to preparing a new set of bylaws. The Council also approved in principle the basic changes that are embodied in the following document, in which constitutional articles and related bylaw provisions are printed consecutively. This document is merely a semi-final draft of a new constitution and bylaws, the final drafts of which, it is hoped, will be placed before the Council for action at meetings in St. Louis, December 27 and 30, 1952. Conferences with the Association's legal and financial advisers have indicated the need for some revision in Article II, Section 3, of the bylaws; in Article V, Section 2, of the bylaws; in Article XI, Section 1, of the constitution, and several sections in the corresponding article of the bylaws. Other modifications may be prompted by suggestions received from members, who are herewith invited to comment and to send any suggestions to the chairman of the committee or to the Administrative Secretary without delay.

In conformance with Article XI of the constitution now in force, the final drafts of the proposed constitution and bylaws will be published in SCIENCE and in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY in November, at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the Association, and the Council will be asked to act upon the final drafts at one of its sessions, either on December 27 or December 30.

The most significant change contained in the proposed constitution is in the allocation of responsibilities. At present it is stipulated that "control of all affairs of the Association is vested in the Council, which shall have the power to review and to amend or rescind its own actions and all actions taken by the Executive Committee." It is obvious that the Council is not in a position to assume such responsibilities but must delegate them to carefully selected representatives of its own choosing; hence, in the new constitution it is proposed to give the Council the responsibility of electing the members of the Board of Di-