

## Book Reviews

**The Economics of Communist Eastern Europe.** Nicholas Spulber. Technology Press of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. xxviii + 525 pp. Illus. \$12.50.

This bulky volume by Nicholas Spulber, associate professor of economics at Indiana University, is a well-documented and well-rounded account of the economic evolution of communist Eastern Europe since World War II. The countries discussed are Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. Albania and Eastern Germany are not included because, according to the author, their economic development since 1945 conformed to a pattern different from that of the other six countries. The preliminary draft of the study was completed in the years 1952-54 when Spulber was associated with the Center for International Studies of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but the manuscript was revised and brought up to date through 1955, 1956, and the beginning of 1957.

Spulber depends chiefly on statistical data from Eastern European sources. He has no illusion about their comprehensiveness and reliability, but he believes that, if used with circumspection, they provide an adequate ground for valid generalizations. In his Foreword M. F. Millikan sounds a note of caution by stating that "the reader will have to make his own judgment" about the merit of the data presented and of the conclusions based on them.

With this reservation, Spulber has written a useful book. He is thoroughly familiar with his subject and seems at ease amid the baffling complexities of the Balkan situation. His introductory section on the historical background is very well done and contains some revealing observations—for instance, the discussion of the prevalence of state ownership before the war. The bulk of the study deals, with a varying degree of thoroughness, with nationalization, planning, and the nature of the relationship between the European satellites and the Soviet Union. Spulber throws some interesting light on such relatively little known issues as the nature and effects

of the reparations exacted by Moscow from the former Eastern European enemies, the establishment and the dismantling of the joint companies, and the activities of the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance.

The 17 maps and charts and the 138 statistical tables, some of them very detailed ones, are presumably responsible for the prohibitive price of the book. This may be another reason why greater restraint and selectivity in using statistics would have been justified.

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**Tranquilizing Drugs.** A symposium held under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in cooperation with the American Psychiatric Association and the American Physiological Society and presented at the Atlanta, Georgia, meeting, December 27-28, 1955. AAAS Publication No. 46. Harold E. Himwich, Ed. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C., 1957. Members, \$4.50; others, \$5.

Ralph W. Gerard, in a recent article in *Science*, has suggested facetiously that symposia on psychopharmacology may be becoming a drug on the market. Although it is true that the proceedings of a considerable number of meetings dealing with the newer psychiatric drugs have appeared in the last three years, I believe these fill a real need.

The great interest stimulated by the discovery of chemical substances able to alter the symptomatology and behavior of psychiatric patients or the psychological functioning of normal subjects has resulted in an increasing amount of research activity. Symposia held by scientific organizations have enabled investigators to present their own recent findings and to learn of the work and thoughts of others. In rapidly expanding fields such as this, their publication supplements in a useful manner the publication of individual articles in the existing journals and often makes available,

within a single volume, types of articles which would never appear in the same journal because of the limited scope and limited space of many periodicals.

The volume entitled *Tranquilizing Drugs*, edited by Harold E. Himwich, is the result of such a symposium, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in December 1955, under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in cooperation with the American Psychiatric Association and the American Physiological Society. The meeting itself was well attended and of great interest, and publication of its proceedings makes generally available an outstanding collection of papers in this expanding field.

The material presented is worthy of special note for a number of reasons. This is the first of such symposia to include such a varied group of basic studies. These range from work on the cerebral synaptic actions of drugs by Marrazzi and Hart, through studies of electroshock latency by Toman *et al.* and depth electrode work as reported by Hendley, Lynes, and Berger, to studies of the alerting response by Himwich and Rinaldi. These articles describe the effects of a number of different drugs on the systems under consideration and thereby provide a particularly interesting overview both of techniques used and of findings obtained in basic studies of electrophysiological properties by means of drugs.

The presence of reports by Grenell of the striking effects of chlorpromazine on brain adenosine triphosphate and by Hoffer of a well-controlled study of the psychological effects of adrenolutin on normal subjects serves to underline the breadth and general interest of this publication.

At the clinical level, the number of drugs reported upon and the various levels of approach and types of patients studied again emphasize the considerable scope of the volume. Work on patients seen in intensive psychotherapy is included, as are controlled studies on chronic schizophrenics. Detailed reports of specific research projects are included, as are competent general articles by experienced clinicians on the usefulness or the side effects of these compounds. The drugs studied include azacyclonol, meprobamate, chlorpromazine, reserpine, rescinnamine, canescine, and combinations of reserpine and chlorpromazine. In addition, iproniazid, a drug of considerable recent interest, was used in one study. Although the conclusions arrived at in some of these investigations may be open to qualification or modification as a result of other more recent work, the papers as a whole remain interesting and informative. All in all, Himwich is to be commended for bringing together