with the Tao or Way of No-knowledge of China and Asia generally. Hence the title of his book. Operationally speaking, what this amounts to is the realization that living experience is an art as well as a science and that it requires the cultivation of intuitive esthetic sensitivity and normatively guided choosing as well as formal theory construction with its indirect operational and experimentally defined methods of confirmation. I welcome this conclusion by Siu because it amounts to an independent confirmation, by a Western trained scientist of Asian name and cultural background, of the analysis of scientific procedures and the interpretation of Taoist and Buddhist Asian culture of *The Logic of the Sciences and the Humanities* and *The Meeting of East and West.*

Siu's second prescription is even more specific and follows from the first. The adequate executive in any social institution, whether it be the government, a university, a research laboratory, or a foundation, must combine an appreciation of the scientific method for solving problems of fact with (i) aesthetic sensitivity to the problematic subtleties of experience and (ii) disciplined philosophical analysis of its problems of value of the two different types. In the words of the title of this book's final chapter, the truly scientific decision-maker must be "The philosopher-executive."

F. S. C. NORTHROP
Yale University Law School

The Admirable Discourses of Bernard Palissy. Translated by Aurèle La Rocque. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1957. vi + 264 pp. $5.50.

The only major publication by Bernard Palissy, *Discours admirables,* summarizes the lectures he started to present to a selected group in 1575. The book appeared in 1580 when Palissy was perhaps 70; his birth date is not definitely known. The discourses between Theory and Practice are "on the nature of water and fountains . . . on metals, salts and salines, on rocks, earths, fire and enamels. . . . Plus a treatise on marl, very useful and necessary, for those who practice agriculture . . ."

Aurèle La Rocque presents an introduction and an annotated translation from the rather difficult, antiquated French. This is the book of a practical man who liked to call himself *"ouvrier de terre et inventeur des Rustiques Figulines du Roy et de Monsieur le duc de Montmorency"*—a worker in earth materials and inventor of the naturalistic patterns. He is not a "skeptical chemist" like Robert Boyle in his dialogues (1661), but he criticizes philosophers, alchemists, and certain physicians. From his experiences with the crystallization of salts, the working of clays, and the coloring of glass he derives very definite concepts of good and bad water and their role in the formation of ores, stones, and petrifacts and the operation of salt flats and pumps. He is particularly moving when he describes his long struggles with potteries and enamels, which taught him the difference between "evaporative and accidental humors" and "fixed and radical humors" in clays.

Both the translator and publisher deserve our thanks for this addition to the historical library of the geologist, mineralogist, and chemist.

EDUARD FARBER
4530 Brandywine Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Livestock Improvement in Relation to Heredity and Environment. J. E. Nichols. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, ed. 4, 1957. xi + 240 pp. Illus. 16 s.

Few books have been written on livestock breeding in which a successful balance was achieved between genetical theory and actual breeding practice. The volume by Nichols is probably the outstanding example of a happy synthesis in this field. First published in 1944, the book is now in its fourth edition. Its author, who is professor of animal husbandry at the University College of Wales, has had wide experience in Australia and Britain, and this has been of remarkable benefit to his presentation.

After short introductory chapters the author presents the bare principles of heredity and brief discussions of the complexity of genic interaction and of the interplay between genotype and environment. The major substance of the book is indicated by chapters on the following subjects: gene and character frequency; environmental aspects; genetic aspects of (i) selection; (ii) inbreeding as a mating system, (iii) line-breeding; outbreeding and hybrid vigor; mating likes and unlikes; performance and progeny testing; breed construction; and type and environment. There is a concluding review of the present status of animal breeding research and its applications.

The book is written in a clear but condensed style and demands an attentive reader. It should admirably answer its purpose, though one may hope that most students will read it with a broader grounding in genetics than is provided by the author. As complementary reading in courses on general genetics, Nichols' book is to be recommended highly, since it gives an excellent picture of the many and intricate problems associated with the improvement of slowly reproducing animals of economic value. One might wish for somewhat more extensive illustrations. There are a good list of references and a satisfactory index.

WALTER LANDAUER
Department of Animal Genetics, University of Connecticut

The Human Sum. C. H. Rolph, Ed. Macmillan, New York, 1957. vi + 232 pp. Illus. $3.75.

This book deals with two distinct, though related, topics: the changing structure of the family and world population problems. The essays on the family, by C. J. Rolph, Jacquetta Hawkes, Michael Young, Peter Willmott, Edward Blishen, J. M. Mackintosh, James Lansdale Hodson, and Sherwin Bailey, do an admirable job of making clear the changes that have taken place in the structure and emotional flavor of the family unit during the last hundred years, particularly among the lower classes in England. Jacquetta Hawkes epitomizes the present-day urban family as a unit that is "living in its own small box, belonging to no living community and perhaps even ignorant of the names of its neighbors"—a unit that, of all forms of the family so far invented, is "probably the hardest to maintain." This theme is developed further by the other essayists, with little overlap of material. The illustrations by Alfred G. Wurmser enliven an already lively text.

The portion of the book that deals with population problems is somehow less satisfactory. It is not that the essays are not sensible, for they are. Julian Huxley gives a graphic picture of present-day overpopulation; Mary Stocks writes an interesting history of the birth control movement; while A. S. Parkes brings us up to date on recent contraceptive experimentation. Bertrand Russell writes with his usual pithy common sense. It's all good. But it's all been said before. There are so many good books on population problems now—books that remind us of those Dylan Thomas complained about ("books that told me everything about the wasp except *Why*"), books that tell us all that we need to know about population except *what now*? Are we really so unable to see the end of the story? Or are we afraid to describe what we see? Two generations ago there were those who realized that "sex" was a problem, and they sought to grapple with it by writing books just filled with facts about stamens and pistils and pollen and birds and bees. Their facts were true, but these had little relevance to the human problem. Is it not possible that most of what now passes for discussion of "the