

one does not have to read between the lines to realize that, as far as inspection is concerned, the problem of biological warfare is vastly different from all others discussed in the book.

A fascinating insight into the production and smuggling of clandestine arms is provided by Lt. Col. Rivlin, an officer in the army of Israel and a man with 20 years' experience in covert operations. His cloak-and-dagger story is worthy of book-length expansion and might even achieve best-seller lists if he accentuated the humorous angles which developed when the Hagana set out to frustrate British control. The Hagana located a transportation center less than 100 yards from the British Headquarters in Tel Aviv; it smuggled illegal cargo by draping it with an overlayer of fresh fertilizer and in one case with rather ripe onions; over-all, it conducted an efficient underground operation with minimal interference.

Sociologist William M. Evan (Columbia) reports on public opinion polls, including some Gallup polls not published heretofore, on attitudes toward inspection and supranationalism. It is discouraging to find the United States lowest (West Germany and Japan are highest) on the list of countries favoring worldwide inspection. On the other hand, 97 percent of those queried from the membership of the Federation of American Scientists favored inspection (3 percent of the FAS must be given hearing tests!) as opposed to 53 percent of the American Legionnaires favoring inspection for disarmament. (No comment.)

Psychiatrist Alberta Szalita completes the team of 18 experts and provides some highly interesting insights into the psychological aspects of questions bearing on man's capability to live in peace. She asks: "Does man possess psychological equipment for disarmament as well as for evasion?" Commenting on governmental decisions, she states: "It is also plausible to assume that some, if not many, of the decisions are prompted by personal needs and the nature of the personality characteristics of some government representatives." This point is well taken, for when decisions are reached in secret the personality traits of the decision-makers may be decisive.

The reports of the three evasion teams are so terse as to discourage further compression. However, they emphasize that "The sooner a disarmament agreement could be achieved between the nations, the simpler the problem of inspection." They recognize that evasion is easier in a totalitarian country. They stress the fact that the Achilles heel of disarmament is the secreting of stores of arms prior to inspection. They note "how vast a distance still separates the world from genuine full disarmament."

This optimistic yet realistic appraisal

of inspection for disarmament does not attempt to deal with political feasibility. Its obvious hope is that disarmament will reduce international tensions and that small steps will lead to big steps. This view will be challenged by those who feel that there can be no mechanical crutch for limping into an era of reduced tension. Arms, they say, are the end products of fear and while more arms increase tension, less arms do not necessarily decrease it in the era of nuclear missiles.

The great merit of this pioneering book is that it penetrates to the core of the disarmament-inspection problem. Columbia University Press manufactured the book in an incredible five weeks in order to bring the book to the public on the heels of the Geneva talks. It is to be hoped that this good timing will give this book the kind of national readership which it so much deserves. It is without doubt the most significant book I have read this year.

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**The Kingdom of Jordan.** Raphael Patai.

Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1958. ix + 315 pp. Illus. \$5.

This volume is considerably more important and more widely useful than its simple title would suggest. The real worth of the book is not immediately apparent even in some of the earlier chapters, which, almost in Baedeker fashion, deal with physical environment and supply skeletal outlines of Jordan's history, its contemporary political and economic structure, and its attributes as a Middle Eastern state. Interspersed among these factual recitals, which presumably are intended to serve principally as a context for a detailed treatment of Jordanian society, are enlivening observations on the unifying influence of religion and language, on pan-Arabism, and on the relationship between power-prestige and cultural attitudes. These sociological excursions give advance notice of the fact that the essential contribution of the book, as might be expected from the author's previous writings, consists in a masterly analysis of the human components of Jordan—an analysis that holds good to an almost equal degree for the surrounding Arab countries.

Most of the topics with which the author is mainly concerned—the family, the nomads, villages and towns, religion, health, language, and education—have been discussed by other students of Arab life and Islamic institutions in recent years. Few, however, have shown the depth of perception and understanding of the characteristics peculiar to the sev-

eral elements in the Jordanian population that are displayed here. Patai is nearly at his best in dealing at some length with the changes that have been taking place in nomadic life since World War I. One misses only an evaluation of two of the more potent of the causative factors: the high-power rifle and the motorcar.

The final chapter, on "Values and outlook," is an excellent synthesis of all that has gone before. It makes clear the problems and perplexities of groups at various cultural levels in a predominantly Muslim environment now in transition between customary and traditional values and the contrasting ones of an ever-encroaching modern world. Caught up in this process, the Arab has to form new concepts of freedom, independence, and leisure. In this connection the author explains some of the manifestations—such as the irruption of street mobs—which of late have seriously complicated political processes in Jordan and neighboring countries. Ascribing many of these phenomena to youths recently emancipated from the discipline of the family, he remarks: "They discover that they can support causes by participating in street demonstrations, that theirs is the freedom of the crowd, the independence gained through anonymity, the emotional satisfaction of mob action. This is a truly new experience. . . . Now . . . they feel free to commit irresponsible acts in the name of patriotic fervor and indignation." Here, the author tacitly suggests, is raw material for Communist endeavor. The question of the hour, he concludes, is: "Into what direction will these changes lead the nascent Jordanian nation?"

HALFORD L. HOSKINS

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**The Terpenes.** vol. V, *The Triterpenes and Their Derivatives*. Hydroxy acids, hydroxy lactones, hydroxyaldehyde acids, hydroxyketo acids, and the stereochemistry of the triterpenes. John Simonsen and W. C. J. Ross. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1957. ix + 662 pp. \$15.50.

This most recent volume in the monumental series on the chemistry of the terpenes is, for the most part, an extension of volume IV, covering the more highly oxygenated triterpene derivatives. The chemistry of the triterpenoid hydroxy acids, lactones, aldehyde acids, and hydroxyketo acids is presented in the classical framework employed in the earlier volumes of the set.

The use of outline formulas is welcome, but here, as in volume IV, the authors have produced distorted and somewhat confusing diagrams through a