

disregard for the symmetry of pentagons and hexagons.

One substantial chapter is devoted to a description of the methods, principles, and arguments employed in the assignment of stereochemical configuration to the triterpenes. This chapter should be of general value to those working with natural products of steroid or terpenoid nature, and to all who aim at complete descriptions of the arrangement of atoms of complex molecules in three dimensions. Extensive use of conformational and optical rotatory analysis is made in arriving at the stereochemistry of the triterpenes, and the chapter in question provides many examples of the use of these powerful techniques.

The volume closes with an addendum to volume III of the series covering sesqui- and diterpenes. The hundred-odd pages so employed provide a welcome summary of recent work, including configurational analysis, with the smaller terpene molecules. In view of his outstanding contributions to the stereochemistry and conformational analysis of terpenes and steroids, it seems particularly appropriate that the elegant series of investigations of D. H. R. Barton and his coworkers on caryophyllene receives full treatment here.

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Wind and Solar Energy. Proceedings of the New Delhi Symposium. Arid Zone Research, vol. VII. UNESCO, Paris, 1956. 238 pp. \$8.

This attractive volume of some 240 pages combines articles presented at UNESCO's Arid Zone Research program symposium, held in October 1954 at the National Physical Laboratory of India in New Delhi. Wind and solar energy, both gifts of the skies, are regarded as important potential energy sources in the tropical zone, the home of nearly one-half of the world's population.

The list of experts who presented papers included representatives of many nations, East and West being neatly balanced. The subject of wind machines was aptly summarized by the Danish scientist J. Juul and the German U. Hütter. The broad aspects of solar-energy research were envisioned by Farrington Daniels, the sole participant from the United States. The results of extensive Russian work, presented by V. A. Baum, included an array of solar furnaces, water heaters, and an ice machine. French achievements with very high temperature furnaces give promise of industrial success, according to F. Trombe. Speculations on potential ap-

plications were visualized by the French and Indian group.

The requirements of the people living in the underdeveloped arid zones were stressed repeatedly. Indian and Russian scientists spoke of potential "important social repercussions, in raising the living standards of much of the world's population and reclaiming the desert." The task is a great and noble challenge to mankind.

The symposium, according to the late André Nizery, "would have abundantly justified itself if its only achievement were that of bringing together scientists working on arid zone problems."

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A Comprehensive Dictionary of Psychological and Psychoanalytical Terms. A guide to usage. Horace B. English and Ava C. English. Longmans, Green, New York, 1958. xiv + 594 pp. \$10.75.

A good dictionary must be complete in its coverage, accurate in its definitions, and comfortable to use; it is not required to be interesting. This is as nearly complete in its coverage as one could hope a psychological dictionary to be. In fact, it reminds us of a good many words (*adiadochokinesis*, *traumatophilic diathesis*, *nyctalopia*!) which one had hoped had achieved oblivion. The standard terms are defined with impeccable care and clarity, and terms which have not yet achieved a standard usage are supplied with carefully distinguished alternative meanings. The system of abbreviations, typographical aids, cross references, and so forth, can be easily mastered in a few minutes. As a dictionary this will prove invaluable to all students of psychology and related sciences.

What delights the reader, however, is that it is so much more than a dictionary; it is also interesting and absorbing. English loves the language that bears his name and loves the science that he is trying to rescue from confusion and ambiguity. He reminds us gently that *data* and *phenomena* are not singular; he waxes more than a little sarcastic when he deals with the artificially constricting meanings that have been thrust upon innocent everyday words, as in the case of the "information theory" jargon (not a "theory," he pauses to point out); and when a really confused term comes up, like *behavior*, or *learning*, or *operational*, or *phenomenology*, he is likely to launch into a carefully reasoned disquisition on the subject that is both fascinating and illuminating. One is reminded of experiences with Fowler's *Modern English Usage* when one has turned to the vol-

ume for a single item, only to find an hour later that one has been reading article after article for the sheer enjoyment of it. English may never achieve the eminence of *Fowler*, but he has certainly made a distinguished contribution to the clarification of psychological thinking.

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Asian Perspectives. The bulletin of the Far-Eastern Prehistory Association (American Branch), vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2. Wilhelm Solheim II, Ed. Far-Eastern Prehistory Association (University of Arizona, Tucson), 1957. 208 pp. \$1.

Unpretentious in format, the first official publication of the Far-Eastern Prehistory Association (an offshoot of the Pacific Science Association) has as its avowed purpose the creation of interest in Far-Eastern prehistory. It plans to serve archeologists, physical and cultural anthropologists, historians, Sinologists, art historians, and others. Covering the Eastern Hemisphere east of India, the *Bulletin* deals with 20 regional areas of interest, ranging from broad geographical zones to separate states. Responsibility for each area is delegated to a regional editor. The fact that these areas include nations quite new politically as well as troubled older countries contributes to a state of unrest that is not entirely conducive to unhindered scientific research.

Following each of the regional résumés of recent events in the field is a bibliography of newer publications. Care is taken not to overlap too much with the publications of the Council for Old World Archaeology. This is a worthwhile little bulletin, and I wish it success.

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Introduction to Riemann Surfaces. George Springer. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1957. viii + 307 pp. \$9.50.

The theory of Riemann surfaces has its origin in the need to create a suitable domain of definition for a function w of a complex variable z that satisfies a given relation. A preview of some of the difficulties that actually arise can be obtained by considering the simple example $w^2 = z$; a value of z does not determine w uniquely, and if z varies continuously along a simple closed curve in the complex plane, a given root w that varies continuously need not return to its