volume will occupy an important place on the library shelves of those in the United States who wish to familiarize themselves with the foundation which is currently being built to support a nuclear industry in Europe.

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The Pattern of Asia. John E. Brush, Shannon McCune, Allen K. Philbrick, John R. Randall, Herold L. Wiens. Norton Ginsburg, Ed. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1958. xiv + 929 pp. Illus. $11.65.

This is a long-awaited volume, welcome yet perhaps a little disappointing. Six specialists, with a combined background of many years in Asia, have cooperated in writing it. This gives the book authority, but the resulting style is heavy; so, too, is the volume itself.

A reviewer is under some handicap when the authors are personal friends, and especially when the book in question is in competition with one of his own. Equally, only those who have wrestled with the problem of evaluating so large and diverse a continent as Asia can appreciate the difficulties of generalization and the merit of the result.

The Pattern of Asia presents a broad picture of the major divisions of the "Asiatic Crescent," as the authors term the lands of "Asian Asia," from Turkey to Japan. Japan is discussed in 70 pages, while over 100 pages are devoted, respectively, to China, the Southeast, and the Southwest. South Asia—namely, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Ceylon —is described in 256 pages. There is also a brief consideration of Central, or High, Asia, and there are two chapters on Soviet Asia.

This is not a volume to which one will turn for definitive statistics or penetrating interpretation; rather, it is sound regional description. For example, there is no critical evaluation of China's population, or of India's Five-Year Plan.

Most chapters close with a list of a dozen references, accompanied by helpful comments. Geographers should view with chagrin the small number of references to geographic literature per se. As a measure of the authors' previous work on Asia, it is interesting to note references to a combined total of 15 articles and one book by them, most of these by the senior author.

There are 161 photographs, many of them excellent but too often poorly reproduced, with an over-all grayness which loses important detail. Especially valuable are several aerial photographs of cities, with explanatory diagrams on facing pages. Captions are unusually long but should have been written in terms of the halftones rather than on the basis of the original photographs, for some distant landscape features referred to are scarcely visible.

The 38 maps are one of the poorest aspects of the book. If "a gentleman is known by the company he keeps," then a geographer may be judged by his maps. Many of the maps are cluttered and unclear; most lack artistry. In going through the book I early turned to the chapter on Pakistan. On page 632 I found a reference to map 26; curious about its coverage, I first thumbed through the next few pages and then counted back for 191 pages until I came to map 26. This proved to be the wrong reference; map 27, on pages 460–1, was apparently meant. This is exasperating, as is the attempt to locate the 20 tables or five plates. The composite climatic graphs seem unsuccessful. More than the usual number of typographical errors are present.

The treatment of India is perhaps the most successful, doubtless due to the long residence there of Professor Brush; in the treatment of some other areas there is an inadequate feel for the people or landscape. Students of Arab lands will be interested to find that discussions of Israel (7 pages) and Lebanon (3 pages) are combined in the same chapter.

The preface states that the theme of the volume is "a more basic understanding of the processes of change which are so radically transforming the Asian landscape," but one might read through the book without being aware of such a motif. Communism, technical assistance, land reform, and economic planning receive but passing mention. The preface goes on to remark that the treatments of the several authors have led to considerable diversity in emphasis, a problem which the senior author has resolved well.

This is a splendid contribution to our understanding of Asia, but one wonders whether the authors would "do it again" this way if they had not signed contracts years ago.

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The World of the Electron Microscope. Ralph W. G. Wyckoff. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1958. xiii + 164 pp. Illus. + plates. $4.

This is not a book written for the specialist in electron microscopy, but rather an exposition for both scientist and layman of the development of a very rapidly expanding instrumental specialty. As Wyckoff points out, electron microscopy is not unique in its pattern of development, and it provides a convenient example for illustrating certain characteristics of the growth of instrumental specialties. Thus, progress in electron microscopy has often been dependent on what may seem to be trivial improvements in specimen preparation. The growth of electron microscopy in the field of cell structure, following on the development of suitable techniques of fixation, embedding, and microtomy, is an impressive example of this kind of sequential development.

The book is well written and makes enjoyable reading. It is illustrated with 16 plates of high-quality electron micrographs and has a relatively brief but adequate index. Wyckoff adopts a philosophical note in the concluding chapter, and one must sympathize with many of his views, particularly with his appeal for more basic research in this country.

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Social Class and Mental Illness. A community study. August B. Hollingshead and Frederick C. Redlich. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1958. xii + 442 pp. $7.50.

Every research monograph has its inevitable quota of limitations and imperfections, and this volume is certainly no exception. What makes the present book exceptional is the new ground it sowed and the reapings it now contributes, both to the healing professions and to the behavioral sciences.

A sociologist and a psychiatrist here collaborate to examine two sets of seemingly discrete phenomena: (i) mental illness and (ii) the socio-economic class system of the urban American community. Their purpose is to determine the effects of the social class system on the availability and character of the psychiatric treatment of patients. From intensive investigations in New Haven, Connecticut, of a large patient population and its therapeutic facilities, Hollingshead and Redlich demonstrate for the first time that who comes for and secures treatment, how he is referred, where he is treated, what kind of therapy is administered, what the frequency and duration of the treatment program and the costs and charges for a given time unit of treatment are, all hinge to a significant and unexpected degree on who, in terms of class position, the patient happens to be.

At the very least, the authors give us a fully documented case study of the American social class system in action,