

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,

within the framework of a healing profession.

In their concluding chapters the authors go beyond the confines of a case study to follow the implications of their findings wherever they lead, even though these lead, as they are aware, into controversy. It is here that data, insight, and the large social view produce a serendipitous yield of "tentative inferences" that must be taken into account as future guidelines both for research and for social policy.

The latter inferences range from public education in mental health matters, to evaluation of present methods of treatment and development of new methods, to professional training of therapists.

One can perhaps convey the significance and impact of this book in capsule form by suggesting that it stands in the tradition of Myrdal's classic work, *An American Dilemma*. Despite controversy, psychiatry and the community at large, well and sick, will stand in the authors' permanent debt.

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Snakes in Fact and Fiction. James A. Oliver. Macmillan, New York, 1958. xiii + 199 pp. Plates. \$4.95.

James Oliver wrote this book to answer "a majority of the questions most frequently asked about snakes," and this he has done in language free from technicalities. Although a great many subjects are dealt with briefly, emphasis is placed on a few old favorites such as giant snakes (two chapters), aggressive and dangerous snakes and their rating, and snake charmers and worshippers.

The account of the famous snake dance of the Hopi Indians of Arizona includes a good discussion of how the Hopis handle rattlesnakes with relative safety. Of special interest is impressive evidence that the anaconda grows to be at least 37 feet long. Here Oliver deals with a highly controversial subject, and his conclusion will raise the hackles of many a herpetologist. Incidentally, he transfers to the New World the honor of having the largest of all snakes, but he gives the Old World credit for the most deadly one.

In spite of the fact that snakes universally arouse strong and varied emotions, there are, in English, almost no accurate, readable, up-to-date books about them. I exclude certain excellent special-purpose works such as regional guides; these are not intended to be read straight through. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recommend a book not only designed to be read like a story but written well

enough to compete with good stories. The author is curator of reptiles of the New York Zoological Society and carries on with notable success the tradition started at the zoological park in the Bronx by the late Raymond L. Ditmars, renowned reptile specialist and educator.

Technical names are omitted from the text but entered in the ample index, after the common names. Lack of a bibliography is in part offset by the inclusion of names of herpetologists and other workers along with the accounts of their contributions. The 20 halftone pictures are produced on 12 plates and include two photographs of the Hopi snake dance.

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New Books

Principles of Biological Microtechnique. A study of fixation and dyeing. John R. Baker. Methuen, London; Wiley, New York, 1958. 372 pp. \$7.50.

Abbreviations Dictionary. Abbreviations, contractions, signs and symbols defined. Including the Greek alphabet, international civil aircraft markings, numbered abbreviations, proofreader's marks, punctuation and diacritical marks, radio alphabet, Roman numerals, ship's bell time signals, signs and symbols. Ralph De Sola. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1958. 186 pp. \$4.

Baillière's Atlas of Male Anatomy. Revised by Katharine F. Armstrong. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London, ed. 4, 1958 (order from Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore). 34 pp. \$3.25.

Behind the Sputniks. A survey of Soviet space science. F. J. Krieger. Public Affairs Press, Washington, D.C., 1958. 386 pp. \$6.

Bibliography of Food. A select international bibliography of nutrition, food and beverage technology and distribution, 1936-56. E. Alan Baker and D. J. Fosskett. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1958. 343 pp.

Bibliography on the Genetics of Drosophila. pt. 3. Irwin H. Herskowitz, Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, 1958. 296 pp. Paper.

Cholesterol. Chemistry, biochemistry, and pathology. Robert P. Cook, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 554 pp. \$15.

Coastal Sand Dunes of Oregon and Washington. Memoir 72. William S. Cooper. Geological Soc. of America, New York, 1958. 169 pp.

Comprehensive Inorganic Chemistry. vol. 7. *The Elements and Compounds of Group IVA.* M. Cannon Sneed and Robert C. Brasted. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1958. 311 pp. \$7.50.

Current Trends in Heterocyclic Chemistry. Proceedings of a symposium held at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra, 2-4 September 1957, under the auspices of the Chemical Society. A. Albert, G. M. Badger, C. W. Shoppee, Eds.

Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1958. 179 pp. \$5.50.

Danger in the Air. Oliver Stewart. Philosophical Library, New York, 1958. 213 pp. \$6.

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson. The scholar-naturalist, 1860-1958. Ruth D'Arcy Thompson. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1958. 255 pp. \$4.

Dispersion of Materials. Rolt Hammond. Philosophical Library, New York, 1958. 239 pp. \$10.

Electromagnetic Isotope Separators and Applications of Electromagnetically Enriched Isotopes. R. H. V. M. Dawton, M. L. Smith, W. Walcher. J. Koch, Ed. North-Holland, Amsterdam; Interscience, New York, 1958. 322 pp. \$7.50.

Elementary Number Theory. Edmund Landau. Translated by Jacob E. Goodman. Chelsea, New York, 1958. 256 pp. \$4.95.

Essays on Individuality. Felix Moreley, Ed. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1958. 270 pp. \$5.

Estimation of Thermodynamic Properties of Organic Compounds. George J. Janz. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 220 pp. \$6.

Fibre Microscopy. Its technique and application. J. L. Stoves. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1958. 291 pp. \$7.50.

General Cytochemical Methods. vol. 1. J. F. Danielli, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 482 pp. \$12.80.

Miscellaneous Publications

(Inquiries concerning these publications should be addressed, not to Science, but to the publisher or agency sponsoring the publication.)

Guideposts for the Gifted Children Themselves. Guideposts for Administrators. Guideposts for Teachers of Gifted Children. Guideposts for Parents of Gifted Children. Ruth Strang. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia Univ., New York, 1958. 4 folders, \$0.60 per set.

Petroleum Sourcebook, 1958. A regional bibliography of petroleum information. Curtis Stevens, Ed. National Petroleum Bibliography, Box 3586, Amarillo, Tex., 1958. 179 pp. \$6.

List of Scientific Papers, Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Chronicle of the United Nations, Document Service, Nos. 5-7. Chronicle of the United Nations, 234 West 26 St., New York 1, 1958. 24 pp. Free.

Energy in Latin America. Study prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Geneva, 1957 (order from Columbia Univ. Press, New York). 268 pp. \$2.50.

Fundamentos del proyecto de creación del Observatorio Astronómico de la Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias. Publ. No. 1, 14 pp.; *El Proyecto del Observatorio Astronómico Interamericano.* Publ. No. 3, Felix Cernuschi, 20 pp. Departamento de Astronomía, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay, 1958.