

mysticism need not be so conceived that some ontological teleology is essential to their viewpoints. It is sufficient if a deeply cultivated sense of the mystery of existence provides a corrective to any dogma of the total intelligibility of the universe, an intelligibility to be finally revealed by science or any other means.

MILTON K. MUNITZ

*Department of Philosophy,  
New York University*

### **Federal Budget and Fiscal Policy, 1789–**

**1958.** Lewis H. Kimmel. Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1959. x + 387 pp. \$5.

This highly readable volume has a somewhat misleading title. Kimmel has not written a comprehensive history of federal budgeting and fiscal policy but has concentrated on the evolution of attitudes toward the balanced budget and public debt. The volume starts with Washington and Hamilton and ends with Eisenhower and Anderson. Economic events, the viewpoints of government officials, and the contemporary prescriptions and theories of economists are interrelated in each phase of fiscal history. The author has a light touch throughout and does not attempt a technical treatment. The book is apparently addressed to the general reader and to the practitioner. Although there is reference to such matters of fiscal economics as the balanced budget multiplier, the author does not attempt to break new theoretical ground.

The great change that has occurred in this 170-year period lies in the role and responsibility of the national government for the aggregate level of income and employment. This change has necessitated an abandonment of rigid notions of budget-balancing and at least some diminution in fears about the horrors of the national debt. Kimmel's history of the emergence of what is commonly called "a positive fiscal policy" or "fiscal policy for growth and stability" points out that attitudes toward balanced budgets and the national debt had become stereotyped by the end of the 1920's. Adherence to fiscal orthodoxy was a traditional article of faith, and the march of events had not forced a rethinking of the issues. The attack on the conservative creed first came in the writings of economists, in the immediate pre-Keynesian period, from 1930 to 1936. The transformation in popular

attitudes toward the national debt and deficits did not emerge until World War II, when it became completely evident that very large deficits and a rapid rise in the national debt were accompanied, not by bankruptcy and ruin, but by unprecedented increases in national output and an unprecedented rise in levels of material well-being.

Kimmel finds that, in the postwar period, the obsessive belief in the efficacy of a balanced budget has all but vanished, and that there are no important differences between the major political parties on this point. The philosophy of the Employment Act prevails, and budget policy will be adapted to the requirements of economic stabilization.

It is not possible to dissent from this conclusion. Certainly there is a predominant view that, in the event of a serious recession, federal taxes will be reduced and expenditures will be increased, let the deficits fall where they may. But there remains a curious lag in thinking in some quarters. Kimmel quotes a 1957 statement by Senator Goldwater, which appeared in the *Congressional Record*: "Where is the finely drawn line between freedom and slavery when, under the present deficit, every baby born in this country has a \$1,675 first mortgage tag hanging around its neck?" Perhaps it is the senator who should read this book.

JESSE BURKHEAD

*Department of Economics,  
Syracuse University*

**Index Kewensis Plantarum Phanerogamarum.** Supplement 12. George Taylor, Ed. Oxford University Press, New York, 1959. 162 pp. \$12.

The appearance of a new supplement to the *Kew Index* has been eagerly anticipated by taxonomists who work with the flowering plants, for this continuing publication, perhaps more than any other single work, makes possible the orderly progress of plant taxonomy. The 12th supplement of the work (first published in 1895) covers the years 1951 to 1955 inclusive. An estimate indicates that between 17,000 and 18,000 binomials are included in this supplement; most of these are names of new species or new combinations published during the 5-year period, but some are names published earlier and overlooked in prior supplements. Like the other re-

cent supplements, the 12th carries a separate listing of newly described (or previously overlooked) genera. There are 472 names in this list.

This is the first supplement that has appeared under the nominal editorship of George Taylor, the new director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. In his foreword Taylor gives credit to M. I. Skan for the preparation of the supplement. Botanists in all fields owe a debt of gratitude to both Skan and Taylor, and to the Royal Botanic Gardens, for the preparation and sponsorship of this indispensable work. In its format and in the excellence of its printing, the 12th supplement is a worthy addition to a distinguished series of botanical reference works.

A. C. SMITH

*Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution*

**The Gifted Group at Mid-Life.** Thirty-five years' follow-up of the superior child. vol. 5 of *Genetic Studies of Genius*. Lewis M. Terman and Melita H. Oden. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1959. xiii + 187 pp. \$4.50.

If we were to identify a large group of 11-year-olds with IQ's that place them within the highest 1 percent of the school population and follow their careers for 35 years, what would we find? Few biographers have the pertinacity to wait for an answer. It is our good fortune that Terman has undertaken such a study—and of no less than 1500 individuals. Unfortunately Terman's death occurred before he could witness the ground swell of interest in exceptional talent which followed the scientific events of 1957.

The book is concerned primarily with the status of the gifted subjects in 1955, when their average age was 44. Careful comparisons have been made of the incidence of death, suicide, mental illness, sexual maladjustment, schooling, occupational rank, income, and fecundity in the gifted group and in the general population. The authors have been remarkably successful in bringing together statistics that are scattered over many fields. The analysis shows that the gifted subjects continue to be superior in nearly every respect. We learn that the present birth rate of 2.4 children per mother among the gifted women and the wives of gifted men is insufficient to "maintain the