

stock," although the authors point out that a number of child-bearing years remain. Of particular interest is the finding that the mean intelligence level as measured by the Concept Mastery Test significantly increased between the ages of 30 and 40.

For the reader who wishes to obtain a brief review of Terman's 35 years of research on gifted subjects, this will be a useful book. Readers of earlier volumes will find that it covers familiar ground. It provides a concise summary of an investigation which sought to tell us (i) what intellectually superior children are like as children; (ii) how well they turn out; and (iii) what some of the factors are that influence their later achievement. The last aim was only partially realized. The authors themselves conclude that the research has not yielded much information on methods and techniques for the education of the gifted. However, by showing the records of accomplishment of gifted children who go through our schools without any special educational opportunities, the authors have provided a valuable base line against which the effects of future innovations may be assessed.

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**Mass Leisure.** Eric Larrabee and Rolf Meyersohn, Eds. Free Press, Glencoe, Ill., 1958. x + 429 pp. \$6.

This collection of readings roams widely over a rather loosely defined subject, but the serious reader should, in general, find it an informative and provocative set of skilled attempts to dissect and explain "the leisure that has become available, on an increasing scale, to the populations of the industrial West."

In confining their attention to the industrial Western nations, the authors point out a rather basic distinction between "class leisure" and "mass leisure," the former involving the use of free time which was secured as a right or prerogative of classes whose orientation was towards leisure, the latter involving the use of free time earned and paid for by people whose orientation is towards work. It is "the working class" that is now joining the ranks of the "leisure class" as a result of greatly reduced hours of work and a considerably increased span of life. But this new-found leisure has

come faster than have the changes in our attitudes towards work and in our philosophies of life; thus, it has brought anxieties and "problems" along with the potential advantages of a freer and better life. The book is, in general, an explication of these social trends.

The volume begins rather pedantically by quoting the two pages on "leisure" found in the *Oxford-English Dictionary*, followed by the five pages on the same subject contained in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. This may, unfortunately, prove too much for the general reader—a pity, because the readings become more interesting, meaty, and thought-provoking as the distance from this logical but unimaginative beginning increases. The succeeding sections, for example, contain a number of theoretical discussions of a philosophic, psychological, and sociological nature, such as Bertrand Russell's "In praise of idleness," Jean Piaget's "The explanation of play," Robert MacIver's "The great loneliness," and Margaret Mead's "The pattern of leisure in America." There is not much connection between these sections, but the reader will come away with a sense of expanded horizon and a greater depth of perception regarding the subject.

The third section of the book is devoted to empirical studies—statistics on the amounts and uses of leisure and field studies on leisure behavior. Lundberg's classic study of Westchester County, N.Y., is included, along with the *Fortune* report on "30 Billion for fun," and Cleveland Amory's description of American upper-class white society at Tuxedo Park appears alongside Franklin Frazier's account of the "black bourgeoisie."

Finally, in section four, the authors include a series of articles on specific forms of mass leisure, under the subheadings "Sports," "Hobbies," "Holiday travel," and "Fads and habits." Here will be found studies on "camping in the wilderness," the "do-it-yourself market," the "motivational pattern of drinking," and "sex as play."

The volume ends with some words about the future of leisure in our society and with a bibliography which "attempts to include all works on leisure written in the English language since 1900." The list is arranged by decade and includes only 22 items from the period 1900 to 1909 but over 400 items for the 8 years from 1950 to 1958—an indication of the growing importance of the subject to us today.

Although this is a professional rather

than a popular book—in the sense, at least, that it is confined for the most part to serious items from the research and the theoretical literature—it is also a book about each of us who is struggling to adjust his way of life to make more profitable use of his leisure time, or at least to understand why he can't do so. Thus, I believe that any serious reader will come away from reading this volume with greater perspective on himself and on the people around him.

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#### **Excavations at La Venta Tabasco, 1955.**

Philip Drucker, Robert F. Heizer, and Robert J. Squier. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1959 (order from Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington 25). viii + 312 pp. Illus. + plates. \$4.

As the title implies, this monograph reports on extensive excavations made at the Olmec site of La Venta, Mexico, during approximately three months of 1955 by a National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution-University of California archeological expedition.

The purpose of these excavations was to obtain definitive information on patterns of construction or architecture—a problem concerning which previous excavations of the site had produced only inconclusive results. Most of the work was concentrated in the Ceremonial Court area (complex A), which lies just north of the pyramid. Four construction phases were recognized: phase 1, the water-sorted floors period; phase 2, the white-floor period; phase 3, the rose-floor period; and phase 4, the red-clay-cap period.

The authors are of the opinion that "La Venta represents a culturally 'floating' manifestation of classic (or florescent) Olmec culture which at the present time is not firmly anchored to other sites or culture periods either at its beginning or end" (page 259). Radiocarbon dates are interpreted as indicating that complex A was constructed and used continuously during, approximately, the period 800 to 400 B.C.

Two points of wider significance are discussed under the heading "Possible sociopolitical situation at La Venta." La Venta may have been selected as the district ceremonial center because of its relative isolation. Whereas the religious