

the loss of liberty and human dignity and with famine, pestilence, war, and enslavement. He believes that time is against us and that the longer we wait the harder it will be to save ourselves from biological, social, and individual disaster.

The author examines the background of the Catholic Church's position in regard to birth control. His thesis is prepared with the documented care that goes into the preparation of a careful legal brief. He shows how the laws against contraceptives evolved during the period of Victorian preoccupation with obscenity, only to be adopted by the Catholic Church 50 years later as its first line of defense against the birth-control movement initiated by Margaret Sanger and her small band of women coworkers, in 1914. Catholic authors attacked contraceptives as harmful morally, medically, economically, and socially and attributed these dire consequences to the separation of intercourse and parenthood. However, the advent of physiologic means of child spacing, exemplified by the rhythm method, and the acceptance of this method by the church strike at the heart of the arguments advanced against the use of contraceptives. The author concludes that the church has made a philosophical mistake in contending that natural law forbids the use of contraceptives and that it has been inconsistent in approving birth control by physiologic means but disapproving artificial measures. If a couple intends in good faith to have children and does have them, the primary procreative function has been fulfilled, regardless of the method of birth control practiced in the interim. The author hopes that the church, legislating for Eternity, will reappraise its present view in the interests of all mankind.

This scholarly contribution can be read with interest by all thinking people.

M. EDWARD DAVIS

*Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology, University of Chicago*

The State of Israel. L. F. Rushbrook Williams. Macmillan, New York, 1957. 229 pp. Plates. \$4.50.

Of the many works that appeared around the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the state of Israel, Williams' *State of Israel* is probably the most useful as a general introduction for

the reader unfamiliar with the subject matter. The author gives a very brief summary of the history of the Zionist movement, goes quickly over the Arab-Israeli conflict, and then discusses at length the problems of absorption of the "ingathered" immigrants, the return to the land, the welfare state, internal politics, and, finally, the relationships both with Israel's Arab minority and with the surrounding Arab states.

Williams acknowledges his indebtedness to the authorities in Israel for help in preparing the book, and the treatment of Israel is sympathetic throughout. But this approach does not always serve him well in his attempt to convey a realization of Israel's problems and of the efforts that are being made to solve them. In his chapter "Europe in Asia," the tone is set by his finding of "an efficient precision about everything" in contrast to the other new Asian states that he has recently visited. The contrast is, in my opinion, invidious. One of the reasons some Asian and African states are turning to Israel for technical assistance is that the latter represents a sort of halfway house between their own lack of development and the highly developed European and North American economies. Israel has been, and still is, engaged in solving the very same problems that confront these other states, and its experience is useful. One of the central issues is the productivity of the individual worker in industry. This has been a considerable headache to the Israeli planners, and the problem has by no means been solved. While, in the last year, the productivity of the Israeli worker increased by approximately 5 percent, the index is still well below that for the Western European worker.

The chapter "Back to the land" is not really indicative of the current scene in Israel. A disproportionate amount of space is devoted to agriculture. This is the longest chapter of the book, and it has a curiously old-fashioned flavor, as if it had been written in the 1930's instead of in this decade. The real problems in agriculture are not whether Israelis are attached to the land and are good farmers—that was proved so conclusively so long ago that it is beside the point—but, rather, whether the *kind* of farming that is being done is best for Israel's economy, and whether the proportion of people on the land may not actually already be too high. Israel is not alone in this latter respect. The United States, Egypt, and the U.S.S.R. all face the same question, to name only three. The other side of the coin—the

industrialization of the state—is dealt with by Williams in rather summary fashion. Yet it is exactly here that Israel must make its greatest strides if it is to free itself from the need for perpetual subsidy.

On the question of Israel's Arab minority, Williams states that all is for the best. This is hardly borne out by the facts. Even Ben-Gurion, who recently visited Arab villages, has promised some amelioration of, though not an end to, the military administration of Arab-populated areas.

Twenty-seven excellent photographs illustrate the text.

WILLIAM SANDS

Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C.

Russian for the Scientist. John Turkevich and Ludmilla B. Turkevich. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1959. ix + 255 pp. \$5.95.

The appearance of this text is a propitious and timely event for Anglo-American scientists and teachers of Russian. With the important exception of James W. Perry's *Scientific Russian* previous "scientific Russian" manuals have merely provided succinct outlines of grammar, apparently on the assumption that scientific Russian is much easier for a scientist reading in his field than for the layman, and that scientists are so superior intellectually that they can bypass the ordinary plodding methods of other people in learning Russian. While it cannot be denied that the study of scientific Russian, in comparison with the study of general Russian, can be greatly streamlined, the average scientist will need a good deal of careful and patient pedagogical help before he will be able to read Russian texts with any degree of competence or facility. In my opinion, *Russian for the Scientist* provides such help, amply and expertly. At the same time, it greatly simplifies the study of Russian for those who, for understandable reasons, wish to concentrate their efforts on learning to read scientific texts, at the expense of other aspects of Russian.

Basically, this grammar approaches the problem in somewhat the same fashion as do certain contemporary regular Russian grammars. For example, it presents the cases of nouns one at a time and, in general, attempts (successfully, I think) to introduce other grammatical categories in proper pedagogical sequence. At the same time, there is a