

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.

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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

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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

good deal of justifiable telescoping—for example, in the simultaneous presentation of the singular and plural of the cases. The explanations of grammar are usually clear and well illustrated, and they are often accompanied by some valuable original comments. There is an abundance of exercise material, and it appears to be adequate. As would be expected, the vocabulary is scientific from the outset, an especially good selection having been made in the way of introductory material. Mention should be made of the final chapter, devoted to wordbuilding.

The readings are possibly the outstanding feature of this book. Beginning with lesson 7, each lesson includes readings (with individual vocabularies) in four fields: aeronautical engineering, biology, chemistry, and physics. These readings have been drawn, with excellent judgment, from Soviet sources, and they should prove invaluable in helping students to acquire a basic vocabulary in these fields. I consider these readings attractive enough to warrant the use of this text as a supplementary “scientific reader” for students taking a traditional course in general Russian. The use of these readings in the classroom may present something of a problem for some teachers. I myself would prefer to work out some elementary readings in various scientific fields for classroom use; this would allow me to assign the textbook readings as outside reading, to each student according to his specialty or choice.

Incidentally, the conscientious student, studying by himself, should find this manual extremely helpful. The grammar by Perry will also be useful to such students, though I think they will find the Turkevich grammar less formidable and probably more attractive.

If I were editing a second edition, I should make some minor changes, some of them deletions. I would omit the grammatical introduction completely and incorporate that material in the text; I question the value of introducing such material before the course is begun. Likewise I should prefer to see the paradigms on pages 19 and 26 omitted or, in any case, placed farther along; students who wish to see the complete paradigms in advance can consult the appendix. I feel the same way about the “Tense and aspect review” on pages 128–31; this includes forms that have not been treated at that point. It is misleading to describe the accusative as expressing duration of time for an action begun (page 28); actually, the accusative can express duration in the past,

present, or future. Many students will find it difficult to understand why *избегать* is a “negative verb”; it would be much better to omit it. On page 39 an example (such as *спальня, спален*) should be given for a nominative in -я with an inserted -е- in the genitive plural. On page 87 the prepositional singular of the type noun *критерий* has been omitted. It is misleading to describe the perfective as the “tense of narration” (page 112); the imperfective aspect may also be used for narration. On page 136 the abbreviation *кпд* is not explained; it stands, of course, for *коэффициент полезного действия*. On page 141, line 3 should read, “if the stem ends in a vowel.” On page 144 the description of relative and interrogative pronouns as identical should be carefully limited to *кто* and *что*. On page 178 it would be helpful to give an example of the use of *больше всего*. On page 227, a more important meaning of *занимать* is “to occupy,” and on page 228, *относиться* means “to refer to, to concern.”

These are the misprints I found: On page 7 *ученой* should be substituted for *ученной* and *заранее* for *заранье*. On page 52, read *окисление* for *окислене*. On page 57 the bottom line should read “-ь becomes -ью in both columns.” On page 143, read *объясняйте* for *бьясняйте*. On page 161, read *сильно* for *сильпо*. On page 299, change *приклéть* to *приклéть*.

There is a pressing need to teach as many of our scientists as possible to read Russian, the sooner the better. That is one of the reasons why I feel that we are indebted to John and Ludmilla Turkevich for this excellent and important contribution.

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Taschenbuch der Botanik. vols. 1 and 2.

Walter Mevius. Thieme, Stuttgart, Germany (order from Intercontinental Medical Book Corp., New York). vol. 1, 1959, 291 pp., \$3.05; vol. 2, 1958, 195 pp., \$3.60.

The first volume of the two “pocket books of botany” (actually they are much larger than the title indicates) deals with plant physiology, in a thoroughly up-to-date manner. It includes reproductions of structural formulas of organic compounds and discussions of the physical chemistry of intricate life processes. The reader will be amazed to

see, from this book, what an extensive background in the physical sciences is required of students of botany in Germany.

The second volume, *Plant Taxonomy*, condenses into 188 pages a large amount of material, including numerous drawings. The material, naturally, has to be tightly packed, and the volume is therefore more suitable for use as a reference manual than as a textbook.

FRANCIS JOSEPH WEISS

Arlington, Virginia

The Far East. A modern history. Nathaniel Peffer. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1959. xviii + 489 pp. \$7.50.

Nathaniel Peffer, professor of international relations at Columbia University, has devoted a good share of a scholarly lifetime to the Far East. His book is a skillfully fashioned, well-written, intelligent guide to the background of China, Japan, and their neighbors.

He sees China and Japan—particularly China—as the core of the Far East. He does his best to follow the main-streams of historical development, without diversions or inconsequential details. His book is not for the student cramming facts for an examination but for discerning readers who want to know and to understand how the contemporary situation in East Asia came to be as complex and complicated as it is.

Peffer gives the impression that he thinks while he writes. His is no dry chronicle. He has no pet theories to pawn, no prophecies to offer. His insight comes from hard work and careful study. He does not shy away from personal judgments. His views may arouse sharp disagreement, but they will always command respect.

His story is that of the intrusion of western traders, missionaries, soldiers, sailors, and diplomats into the ancient but changing East. He sketches the intricate patterns of the social fabric of traditional China and Japan and traces with infinite finesse the colorful but imperfect designs which emerged (and are emerging) from a century of blending of East and West. The West had its historical moment of supremacy, only to recede in the backwash of World War II.

As premises for his provocative conclusions, Peffer makes some interesting suggestions about the importance of China (page 7), the spiritual health of