try breeding. The subject is approached "without either the naturalists' disdain of or the mathematicians' reverence for statistical formulation." Such a nonmathematical treatment loses some precision of meaning. For example, how does Lerner's "integrated gene pool" differ from an adaptive peak, to use Wright's metaphor? A mathematical formulation is not only more precise, but leads to a deeper examination of the conditions under which such a multidimensional peak could, in fact, exist.

The reader will find this book an excellent guide to the literature, for it is outstanding in the breadth of references cited. I like Lerner's writing style; there are many quotable passages, and every chapter is interestingly written. A most welcome device is that of segregating much of the technical or ancillary information into "boxes" that can be read or omitted according to the reader's taste.

On the whole I would characterize the book as being open-minded rather than critical, imaginative and speculative rather than rigorous. Whether this is regarded as a fault or a virtue will depend on the reader.

JAMES F. CROW
Department of Medical Genetics, University of Wisconsin

The Weapon on the Wall. Rethinking psychological warfare. Murray Dyer. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md., 1959. xxi + 269 pp. $6.

Twenty years ago, psychological warfare had a ring of excitement about it—at least to a dedicated band of practitioners who saw in it a means of hastening victory over Nazi tyranny and serving the cause of democracy and freedom. It was less than exciting to professional soldiers, more accustomed to put their trust in mortars than in microphones, or to professional diplomats, better accustomed to the discretion of traditional foreign relations than to the blasts of mass propaganda. During World War II, both propagandists (most of whom detested the label) and specialists in military, political, and economic action learned to get on better. They developed rules of thumb to formulate policy and guide action, even if they did not leave a full legacy of agreed doctrine.

But today, as Murray Dyer points out, psychological warfare is neither exciting nor adequate as a concept to cover the requirements for persuasion appropriate to cold war or to peace. He proffers "political communication" as an already well-fashioned weapon on the wall, waiting only to be taken down and used in the service of democratic values. But he documents the difficulties, noting misconceptions rife in government officialdom and among other wielders of power, let alone intellectuals, about the nature and needs of political communication. He notes the absence of doctrine. He traces out disagreements between departments of the government (State and Defense especially) about who should wield this weapon and how, in war or in peace. He calls for concerted action under the wise and dramatic leadership of a President standing above departmental parochialism and conflict, aided by a co-ordinator in the White House. He insists that we must match ideas harmoniously with policies and actions, but claims we have not "found our ideas."

Dyer has gone through the immediately pertinent literature comma by comma including the writings of practitioners and scholars and the reports of British and American government committees. No mean practitioner himself, he has interviewed key figures in earlier programs. He has enriched his report by inspecting histories still officially secret. His account and his conclusions gain weight thereby.

But his book is, in some respects, disappointing. He repeats data and reasoning from chapter to chapter as he deals with these themes from slightly different standpoints. He occasionally misconceives as well as misquotes. More serious, from the standpoint of the scientifically trained reader, are his shortcomings in dealing with the fundamental questions of method and in argumentation from evidence. While no one could quarrel with his demand that more science be brought to bear on the intelligence and evaluation functions in communication, his book offers little guidance on how this might be effectively accomplished. The social scientists are already doing somewhat better than Dyer seems to think—notably in analyzing the effectiveness of the operations of the United States Information Agency.

Dyer is more concerned with the developments to date than with the future. He does not attempt to envision the future as a context for judging the appropriateness of political communications. He does not even try to specify the main parameters of limited war, let alone a period after a thermonuclear exchange, in which a more effective political communication must play its role.

Despite understandable shortcomings, this book contains much of value. It provides technical data of interest to sociologists and political scientists, especially those concerned with changes in government structure and bureaucratic behavior under stress.

But far more important is the author's demonstration of the ranges of concern forced on us as a nation by the conscious attempt to use political communications in the service of national values. Despite any shortcoming in philosophical insight or in research method, this book—in particular, its preface by George S. Pettee—makes it impossible for a reader to remain indifferent to the depth of the issues of who we are, what we stand for, and how we express ourselves to ourselves and to the world. These are not technical matters.

What we do about these issues is up to us. No scholar, by demanding presidential leadership of a national program, can impose unity in word or program in a pluralistic, democratic society. Our political communicators will have to be satisfied with something else. Could that be a humble and honest reportage of the many ways in which we show respect appropriate to the condition of many kinds of human beings, or in which we fail to do this? Could that include demonstration of how we use wealth and strength and human energy in the service of human dignity?

CHARLES A. H. THOMSON
Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California

Scientific Research in British Universities. 1958–59. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1959. xii + 466 pp. Paper, £1 5s.

This volume provides brief notes on scientific research in progress in British universities and university colleges and describes the projects in sufficient detail to indicate the scope of the research.

The arrangement of the institutions and of each section within an institution is alphabetical. The head of the department and members of the permanent staff engaged in supervising research are listed. Alphabetical name and subject indexes are included.