

cles by A. Langsdorf (on neutron collimation and shielding) and J. H. Coon (on target preparation).

It is unfortunate that the reproduction of some of the figures is poor.

There is no question that this will be an invaluable reference work for physicists working with fast neutrons and for many other scientists. We look forward to the second volume, in which the results of these techniques, applied to neutron experiments, will be confronted with theory.

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### **Encyclopaedia of Microscopic Stains.**

Edward Gurr. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md., 1960. xii + 498 pp. Illus. \$18.50.

This encyclopedia is a well-arranged guide to stains. Section 1 presents, in alphabetical order, the numerous stains and has highly welcome, additional information on their structure and solubility in different solvents. Section 2 deals with stains and indicators (arranged in order of ascending molecular weight); section 3 with diazonium and tetrazolium salts; and section 4 with tetrazolium salts and formazans. Considering their steadily increasing importance and the applications of tetrazolium salts, the reader would welcome additional information similar to that given in the sections on the more common stains. The book by Baker, *Principles of Biological Microtechnique*, is highly recommended by Gurr, and it may be helpful in this respect. Section 5 gives many well-selected references.

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**The Changing Middle East.** Emil Lengyel. Day, New York, 1960. 376 pp. \$5.75.

The author, professor of history at New York University, undertakes to describe and assess the social and, especially, the political changes that occurred between 1950 and 1960 in Egypt and Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Sudan, Libya, the Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iran, and Israel, and to relate these

changes to the foreign policy of the United States, which has in recent years been faced with so many critical situations.

Most of the book is devoted to the Arab states, their internal problems, and their relations with other states within the area. A chapter on Egypt and Arab unity constitutes one-third of the volume, and the theme of Nasser's ambition for unity and the resistance to it permeates all the chapters on the Arabs. Much emphasis is given to the activities of the United States in connection with the oil industry.

Israel receives the second largest amount of space; its treatment includes not only the second longest chapter in the book but also much material, in the Arab sections, on the policies of the Arabs toward Israel. Iran and Turkey are peripheral to the group of states forming the core of the Middle East—that is, the Arab states and Israel. There is one appendix containing a table on areas, populations, and forms of government.

The tone of the book is definitely political and, in many aspects, seems to lack objectivity. One fault is due to careless writing. There are numerous mistakes. For example, Count Bernadotte is referred to as “the United States Mediator for Palestine”; and it is stated that, when the British and French took action in 1956, they demanded that Egypt and Israel “cease fighting and withdraw their forces to positions ten miles *east* of the Suez Canal” (*italics added*) instead of ten miles on each side.

The author's prejudices appear frequently in his use of frivolous words, particularly regarding the Arab countries. In his relations to Iraq's Qassem, Nasser “The strong man . . . could huff and puff.” In the 1958 crisis in Lebanon, the U.S. Marines found no obstacle to landing on the beaches except “the attractive and pleased young women in bikini suits.”

There is a definite slant favoring Israel. The Arabs boycott Israel because Israel “provides the most telling illustration of an intrusion, a dynamic way of life.” Israel's “supremacy was manifest in all phases of social activities.” Nowhere in the book is there any serious criticism of Israel. No mention is made of the Stern Gang, the massacres of Arab villagers which created the refugee problem, the assassination of Count Bernadotte, or the ignoring of United Nations' resolutions looking to-

ward a settlement. Israel appears to be the innocent victim of Arab hatred, where the various rulers need a whipping boy on whom to blame their own mistakes. The conclusion is that “time is on their side, the Israeli believe, and even the more pessimistic among them like to feel that an eventual combination of dawning realism and boredom among the Arabs will produce the beginning of peace.”

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**Salt Marshes and Salt Deserts of the World.** V. J. Chapman, Leonard Hill, London; Interscience, New York, 1960. xvi + 392 pp. Illus. \$14.50.

This volume represents a major synthesis of information about salt marshes. Almost throughout, the approach is that of the plant community and of the interrelationships of communities. It is interesting, almost refreshing, to read such a strong presentation of the community viewpoint and of postulated successional relationships. Environmental factors which loom large in importance in relation to these communities are the nature of the substratum; the elevation, including changes in elevation, of the land relative to the sea; and ever-present man with his grazing animals. Fewer data are available, and less material is presented, for a synthesis on the physiology and autecology of halophytes found throughout the expanse of salt marshes and salt deserts of the world. The manner in which man has, with greater or lesser wisdom, utilized these areas is noted. These instances seem to me to furnish prime examples of the importance of wild areas. Intensive reclamation of wild marshes may kill the goose that lays the golden egg, for these very wild species have, by their growth as primary colonists, brought about the building up of the land areas which progressively may be converted to grazing, haying, or crops. For salt deserts the great importance of wise use of applied waters and of suitable crops is illustrated. The mistakes of the past, and our present lack of knowledge, can be seen from the record here presented. Their import is perhaps most striking in southwestern Asia and in Africa.

Marsh and desert suggest highly varied water regimes, which turn out not to be so distinctive (though this