

children in poor villages, should become a classic in public health nutrition.

In general, this is one of the best presentations of the *problems* of protein-calorie malnutrition. One can only regret that the problem of what to do about it on a significant scale is hardly touched upon. Perhaps the foundation will consider holding a meeting of nutritionists, agriculturalists, industrialists, and economic planners to consider ways and means of making a large-scale attack on the problem of providing millions of small children with cheap, first quality protein.

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## Socialistic Social Science

**Introduction to Econometrics.** Oskar Lange. Pergamon, London; Macmillan, New York, ed. 2, 1963. 433 pp. Illus. \$7.

This is the second edition of a book by the Polish (Marxian) economist, Oskar Lange; it was first published in 1957. According to the preface, the differences between the first and second editions are primarily editorial. Impetus for the second edition appears to have come from the growing acceptance of econometric methods by socialist planners during the past few years. Lange cites as evidence a large number of econometric studies currently in progress in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, Hungary in particular. This development is in contrast to the abandonment of econometric studies by the Soviet Union around 1930, following several years of preliminary exploration.

The book constitutes a short course in certain selected areas of econometrics, "the science which deals with the determination by statistical methods of concrete quantitative laws occurring in economic life." Three areas are covered: (i) business forecasting via time-series analysis; (ii) market research via supply and demand analysis; (iii) the theory of programming via Leontief input-output analysis.

The technical exposition is clear and concise, despite its being threaded throughout with earnest political commentary. Although the ideological interpretations detract somewhat from the

organization and (in many cases) the accuracy of the presentation, they also provide a dimension of interest unfamiliar to readers of nonsocialistic texts. For example, 20 pages on Pareto's law are tucked incongruously at the end of the chapter on market analysis. The 20 pages read like a morality play, with Pareto's curve taking the role of the capitalistic villain and the lognormal curve taking the role of the socialistic hero. After a review of some comparative income statistics, the play concludes triumphantly with a proclamation that workers' incomes in Poland are "by no means distributed according to the Pareto formula."

This book provides some interesting glimpses into the thinking of a socialistic social scientist and some interesting commentary on the state of quantitative research in socialistic planning. The reader who wants a comprehensive text on econometrics, however, should look elsewhere: for example, Lawrence Klein's new elementary book, *An Introduction to Econometrics*.

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## Inorganic Chemistry

**Nonstoichiometric Compounds.** A symposium sponsored by the Division of Inorganic Chemistry, 141st Meeting, American Chemical Society, March 1962. Roland Ward, Ed. American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1963. viii + 253 pp. Illus. Paper, \$7.

This collection of 23 papers consists of an introductory paper, five papers on oxides, six on hydrides, two on intermetallic compounds, five on chalcogenides, one on clathrate compounds, and three on tungsten and vanadium bronzes.

The organization of the symposium papers according to the chemical nature of the compounds is convenient from the point of view of one who wishes to find information concerning particular chemicals, but an index of the volume would have been more useful. From the point of view of one interested in the physicochemical basis for nonstoichiometry, the organization is unfortunate. It results in considerable repetition, particularly of elementary concepts, and forces one to glean similarities and differences between compounds by a care-

ful reading of the whole volume. However, if one is willing to read the entire work, he will be rewarded by a wealth of interesting information and motivated to learn more about an important field that tends to be neglected in the training of the average scientist.

In short, this work is not a unified discussion of nonstoichiometry, but rather a collection of research papers pasted together with a few more general articles. A decade ago these papers would have appeared together in one of the journals published by the American Chemical Society, where they would have received wider circulation and would have been permanently bound at the end of the year. Now, they appear as volume 39 of a disparate series of paperback books along with volume 24, *Chemical Marketing in the Competitive Sixties*. After one reading, my copy shows signs of succumbing to wear before the end of 1963. One might expect a longer life for 253 pages that cost \$7.

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## Baird-Agassiz Letters

**Correspondence Between Spencer Fullerton Baird and Louis Agassiz, Two Pioneer American Naturalists.** Elmer Charles Herber, Ed. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1963. 237 pp. Illus. \$5.

An Agassiz *coup de plume* reveals and fascinates; Baird's letters inform and conciliate. Now we have the two men before us, pens in hand, exchanging the latest news on Carisle and Cuttyhunk, chelonians, cyprinoids, and crinoids Cassin and Cope. This is a book for the "museum man" and, of course, the historian, who will welcome this intimate way of learning what transpired at the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the old brownstone castle, the Smithsonian Institution. Here we see two of the most influential figures in American science 100 years ago, at the time the two institutions were founded, planning, sharing, borrowing, financing, and, yes, contesting for the prize collections which were coming in from around the world and with which they hoped to enrich or decorate their respective museums.

The editor, Elmer Herber (Dickinson