

attractively bound in green cloth and is printed on good quality paper. Forest research workers, students, and teachers will find the collection valuable, but it should also serve effectively as a means of educating the growing number of forest managers who are seriously con-

cerned with improving the productivity and usefulness of the lands under their care.

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Science Books for Young People

Developing authentic science materials for children to read, material that will sharpen their observations of the natural world, currently interests many nationwide elementary school science curriculum committees. Studies by these committees have shown that children are tremendously interested in their natural environment. Any parent or teacher knows the endless number of questions they ask with very little encouragement.

Unfortunately, children often receive answers that are invalid, superficial, and lacking in explanations. Adults seldom suggest to children that by observations and simple experiments they could learn at least part of the answer themselves. It is becoming increasingly apparent that young people can learn and understand more than adults realize. How much they can understand depends on the organiza-

tion and presentation of the material; this, in turn, requires a knowledge of how children learn.

Edwin B. Kurtz, Jr., and Chris Allen, the authors of *Adventures in Living Plants* (University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1965. 128 pp., \$4.95), are a scientist (Kurtz) and an elementary school teacher (Allen) who have combined their efforts to produce an elementary botany book for children, ages 11 to 13 years. The manuscript and the sections on "things to do and think about" were read and tested by children, revised, and then tested again. (Most authors of children's books could profitably use this technique.) The efforts of Kurtz and Allen have resulted in an authentic, exciting, and readable children's book about plants. Illustrations are plentiful and appealing without being gaudy. The drawings convey their intent somewhat better than the photo-

graphs, but both are used to advantage.

The authors have organized their material into a series of plant "adventures" built around the structure and life activities of plants: the plant body; cells; photosynthesis; respiration; nutrition; circulation; growth; reproduction; heredity; the plant kingdom; and ecology. New words and how to pronounce them are considered in the final section. Each "adventure" is accompanied by a series of simple experiments and investigative activities designed to stimulate children to further observations and explorations into a topic. The authors have presented the subject of botany through a naturalistic and descriptive approach; however, they have been able to maintain a coherent explanation of the living plant, its structures, physiology, and ecology.

The book is suitable for a home library and should be in elementary school and children's libraries. It could be used as a textbook in the upper levels of the elementary school but will probably become a reference book.

There should be more books on science which represent "good" science and at the same time appeal to young people. The present volume is an effort in the right direction.

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ECONOMICS AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Colombian Prehistory Comes of Age

Donald W. Lathrap

Only since World War II has a systematic picture of Colombian prehistory begun to emerge. Previously there had been reports of archeological work at particular sites or in restricted areas and some discussion of stylistic variation among the various regions of Colombia, but a sense of time depth and a feeling for the place of Colombia in a coherent scheme of New World cultural evolution was lacking. The phenomenally rapid change in

this situation during the last 20 years has occurred almost entirely as the result of the efforts of Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff and his wife Alicia Dussan de Reichel. Their work has been reported in a splendid series of technical monographs and articles, mainly in Spanish. Now their many basic contributions are consolidated and summarized in a lucidly written and beautifully produced book: *Colombia* (Praeger, New York, 1965. 231 pp.

\$7.50) by Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff. The volume is Number 44 in the Ancient Peoples and Places Series, edited by Glyn Daniel.

It is worth stressing the degree to which the modern synthesis of Colombian prehistory presented in this book is the result of the Reichel-Dolmatoff's own research, since the author is engagingly modest in his presentation and extremely generous about crediting and discussing at length the contributions made by others.

This is a "popular" book. The technical jargon of the trade is either eschewed or carefully explained. There is a sense of form, style, and closure that is rare in the publications of most other New World archeologists, even when they are assaying popular writing. It can be read with pleasure and profit by any intelligent layman, but the large quantity of important facts

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