

citing and illuminating panorama of their subject, rather than a conglomeration. Their lively style and constant sense of interconnection make the treatment of each example a vivid lesson relating in some way to larger topics. Themes such as complex numbers and groups are woven through the material in a way which illustrates nicely how underlying structures can appear in widely separated areas of mathematics. By often following their presentations of well-known results with unsolved problems arising from them, the authors manage to keep their material from appearing too settled and fixed, and succeed well in presenting a picture of mathematics as it appears to a working mathematician.

Although not useful as a source or reference volume, this book is a valuable contribution. It provides a perspective and distance which most modern scientists must struggle to obtain, and does this with grace and good sense. The philosophical points to be found in it will probably not strike the mathematician as remarkable, but they are refreshingly sound in comparison with the oversimplifications often made by philosophers when speaking of mathematics. And the authors' suggestions concerning what may be in store for mathematics, especially as regards the use of computers and of ideas from the life sciences, are thought-provoking and worthy of consideration.

R. H. THOMASON

*Department of Philosophy,  
Yale University,  
New Haven, Connecticut*

## Farbwerke Hoechst

**A Century of Chemistry.** ERNST BÄUMLER. With contributions by Gustav Ehrhart and Volkmar Muthesius. Translated from the German edition (1963). Econ, Dusseldorf, 1968. xi + 365 pp., illus. Available for limited distribution from Donald Morgan Associates, 36 West 56 Street, New York 10019.

This is a translation of a festschrift published by the Farbwerke Hoechst AG. vorm. Meister Lucius & Brüning to commemorate the firm's 100th birthday. Those familiar with this company's earlier anniversary volumes and various histories of the I.G. Farbenindustrie will find little that is new as the story is retold of the firm's meteoric rise to preeminence among dye and pharmaceutical manufacturers and its subsequent participation in the formation of

the I.G. trust. However, since the anniversary year, and probably stimulated in part by the preparation of this book, a series of "Documents from the Hoechst Archives" have been published. These splendidly edited publications represent a pioneering effort in company history disclosure whose public relations value exceeds considerably that of the anniversary volume under review here.

The main theme of this book is the resurrection of the Hoechst company from the disaster of World War II. Aside from the enormous task of rebuilding antiquated or destroyed plants, of reestablishing markets and capital, of reassembling and providing for a work force, of catching up with American and British scientific and technical advances in order to market a broad range of chemical products, of switching from coal tar to petrochemicals as the chief source of organic raw materials, the men of Hoechst had also to contend for over six years with American occupation authorities determined to shatter the former I.G. Farben combine into the smallest possible pieces. How the Germans finally succeeded in limiting the fragmentation to three major successor corporations (Hoechst, B.A.S.F., and Bayer) and how they fought each other over the industrial pieces makes interesting reading. One cannot peruse this success story without being impressed again with mankind's toughness and ability to rebound from disaster quickly especially when, as in Germany, the surviving population still possesses a vast accumulation of skills, of disciplined habits, and of high material aspirations.

Since it is always illuminating to observe how others experienced certain well-known events, many will read with profit Hoechst's view of the commercial synthesis of such products as penicillin, insulin, Salvarsan, ammonia, acetylene and its derivatives, dispersion and reaction dyestuffs, polyvinyl acetate and chloride, cellophane, Nylon, Perlon, polyester fibers, and many others. The closing chapter makes some revealing comparisons between the managerial philosophy and financial posture of the company today and before World War I; but its apologetic and defensive tone vis-à-vis the critics of big business seems to this reviewer of questionable necessity and certainly an inappropriate way to close a festive volume.

One can hardly expect objectivity in such a work or extensive discussion of failures or unpleasant topics (such as the firm's relations with the Nazis), but

the reader should have been spared numerous and lengthy repetitions, mediocre to outright incomprehensible translation, and an astonishing profusion of typographical and technical errors (such as a reference to a graph which was left out of the English version of the book). Though hardly an unqualified success at public relations, this beautifully illustrated book does offer the public a fine overview of the chemical industry's historic development and of its ever changing and proliferating products and processes. Professionals in this industry will discover here and there in the chapters points of view and facts that will be new to them and that invite further reflection.

JOHN J. BEER

*Department of History  
University of Delaware, Newark*

## Actions of Drugs and Subjects

**Behavioral Pharmacology.** TRAVIS THOMPSON and CHARLES R. SHUSTER. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1968. xvi + 297 pp., illus. \$14. Prentice Hall Psychology Series.

Behavioral pharmacology is a first-generation discipline. It was born in the mid-1950's after the introduction of the tranquilizers revolutionized the treatment and management of behavioral disorders. Now it has its first text. It is a book of only 229 pages (excluding appendices and bibliography), and its chief weaknesses stem from its brevity. However, it is successful in enough ways to make it worth recommending to anyone wishing a first look at this field. Thompson and Schuster address themselves to graduate and postdoctoral students who have backgrounds in either pharmacology or psychology and who have been inadequately prepared in the other discipline. This book tries "to provide a systematic introduction to the principles and techniques of experimental psychology and the principles of pharmacology as they are applied in behavioral pharmacology."

The authors divide their book into three main sections. First, a 65-page introduction to pharmacology sets out some of the basic principles of this field, sketches the theory of neurohumoral transmission, and lists some of the drugs that are of behavioral interest. The authors then devote about 70 pages to the principles that underlie the experimental analysis of behavior. This section seems to me the least satis-