of the most definite information on the Cordilleran geosyncline—a major feature of the map—has been found in that part of the Basin-Range country. On evidence much less secure, the authors have not hesitated to represent the "Beltian zone" as a continuous unit from northern Mexico to a high latitude in Canada. Even the Front and Laramie ranges are represented as "Beltian." And the map gives no place to the zone of deformation commonly known as "Laramide," though inclusion of Tertiary lava fields implies an aim to present a complete structural picture. The significance of the large areas indicated as being Precambrian is not clear. Figure 36 (plate 11), though drawn to smaller scale, presents the general tectonic features of the Cordilleran region more satisfactorily than does plate 12.

The brief list of source references cited for "The Cordilleran Drama" suggests that the authors may be unfamiliar with much of the published information. Another weakness of this section, and of the entire volume, is the lack of reference in the text to pertinent illustrations. Careful search through the pages dealing with North America has failed to locate one such reference, and in the entire volume the textual citation of figures is extremely rare, though some references are made to illustrations in the earlier volumes, on *Biosphère* and *Petrogénèse*. Captions of plates 12 and 13 in the present volume are skeletal, and readers must look to the text for explanation of many details. Text and illustrations should be mutually complementary, and the reader would be helped, with respect both to economy of time and total return from his study, by a more systematic welding of the two forms of exposition than is evident in the Termier volume.

I do not feel competent to analyze critically much of the treatment related to other continents, but another unfavorable comment on the drawn illustrations seems in order. Most of the many maps have neither scale nor latitude-longitude coordinates. Lack of scale is unfortunate, especially for foreign readers, in such diagrams as plates 47 (Armorican massif), 50 (the Vosges), 51 (Black Forest), and many others. Anyone who is not familiar with these areas can comprehend the diagrams only by reference to an atlas, whereas a scale printed with each figure would give proper perspective at a glance. Plates 46 (Harz Mountains), 59 (part of Spain), and a few others have scales. Why are these so favored? Maps showing areas of continental dimensions should have both scale and latitude-longitude markers. Plate 28 (East Siberia) has these; why not plates 23 (Asia), 33 (Africa), 43 (South America), and others? The general viewpoint of geographers and geologists was once expressed by Isaiah Bowman in the form of a riddle: "When is a map not a map? When it has neither scale nor coordinates." It seems axiomatic that a structure-section too must have a scale, but this primal rule is not strictly observed by the Termiers, as witness their figures 116 (Fallot's Beltic Cordillera) and 119 (Argand's western Alps), both major cross sections reproduced without indication of their horizontal extent.

The numerous tables that summarize orogenic history are an admirable feature of the Termier volume. These tables are generally well executed and serve the reader not only as a useful guide in his reading but also as a ready source for reference in a search for specific information.

No doubt other readers of the volume will find weaknesses not listed here. It is a work that required stupendous labor—the digesting of geologic literature in several languages, involving countless manhours spent in analysis and compilation. In the nature of human things, the result cannot be perfect. An over-all appraisal must recognize the high merit of this work as an attempt to integrate the results of geologic study into a global picture. Perhaps the result demonstrates that the task is too great for a small team in one country. Surely the most glaring weaknesses in the treatment of North American materials might have been eliminated through the aid of a well-informed structural student on this side of the Atlantic. In addition to the language difficulties, the size of the fast-growing mass of literature makes judicious summarizing and accurate graphic representation ever more difficult. The next major step may be a project similar to that represented by the volume *Orogénèse* but carried out by a competent international team. Meanwhile, the Termiers merit our gratitude for their devoted labors. Their volume is a highly useful reference work, and should be a stimulus to further cooperative studies in megatectonics.

CHESTER R. LONGWELL
U.S. Geological Survey

Virus in the Cell. J. Gordon Cook. Dial Press, New York, 1957. 208 pp. Illus. $3.

This book is part of a *Science for Everyman* series and is written in very simple language. The first eight chapters deal with the principal virus diseases of man, and the emphasis is on epidemiology as well as on the history of the development of vaccines, from smallpox to poliomyelitis. The four chapters that follow deal with the viruses of animals, insects, bacteria, and plants. The title *Virus in the Cell* best fits the last six chapters, which are devoted to basic research in virology. A fair number of illustrations, mainly from authoritative sources, is included.

It is a pleasant, exciting, and informative book to read. The degree of accuracy is adequate for a book of this type, though there are a few oversimplifications. For example, the typhus rickettsia is called a virus, and the distinction between virulent and temperate phages is not made. But, in general, the author does not shun complicated problems or recent advances.

This book is most appropriate for laymen and young readers. Perhaps some will be inspired to take up the study of virology.

EMILIO WEISS
Virology Division, Naval Medical Research Institute

The Quicksilver Doctor. The Life and Times of Thomas Dover, Physician and Adventurer. Kenneth Dewhurst. Wright, Bristol, England, 1957. ix + 192 pp. Plates. 21s.

The advent of the antibiotics—biologic and chemotherapeutic agents—has reduced the compound powder of ipecacuanha and opium to a very lowly place in the physician's therapeutic armentarium. Yet for the past two hundred years, almost every physician has employed this useful diaphoretic and sedative, familiarly known as "Dover's powder," in the minor respiratory infections, and almost every teacher of pharmacology has passed on to his students the romantic, if not quite historically accurate, comment that its inventor was the pirate physician, Thomas Dover. But the fascinating story of this 18th-century physician needs no embroidering.

The younger son of a Royalist captain of horse, Thomas Dover became a pupil of the great Thomas Sydenham, from whom he acquired something of the true Hippocratic approach to clinical medicine and common-sense approach to therapy at a period when the practice of physic had been reduced, by theoretical systematists, to the imbecilities satirized by Molière. From successful medical practitioner at Bristol, he turned aside to become one of the leaders in the most successful privateering expedition of naval history, in which he rescued Alexander Selkirk, the prototype of Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, from the island of Juan Fernandez, stormed the city of Guayaquil, and circumnavigated the globe. Thence, he continued his travels to Asia Minor, to return and lose all, a virtual bankrupt, in the South Sea "bubble." Finally, as an epilogue to this romantic and checquered career, in his 70th year he engaged in one of the great