

Book Reviews

The Economics of Communist Eastern Europe. Nicholas Spulber. Technology Press of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. xxviii + 525 pp. Illus. \$12.50.

This bulky volume by Nicholas Spulber, associate professor of economics at Indiana University, is a well-documented and well-rounded account of the economic evolution of communist Eastern Europe since World War II. The countries discussed are Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. Albania and Eastern Germany are not included because, according to the author, their economic development since 1945 conformed to a pattern different from that of the other six countries. The preliminary draft of the study was completed in the years 1952-54 when Spulber was associated with the Center for International Studies of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but the manuscript was revised and brought up to date through 1955, 1956, and the beginning of 1957.

Spulber depends chiefly on statistical data from Eastern European sources. He has no illusion about their comprehensiveness and reliability, but he believes that, if used with circumspection, they provide an adequate ground for valid generalizations. In his Foreword M. F. Millikan sounds a note of caution by stating that "the reader will have to make his own judgment" about the merit of the data presented and of the conclusions based on them.

With this reservation, Spulber has written a useful book. He is thoroughly familiar with his subject and seems at ease amid the baffling complexities of the Balkan situation. His introductory section on the historical background is very well done and contains some revealing observations—for instance, the discussion of the prevalence of state ownership before the war. The bulk of the study deals, with a varying degree of thoroughness, with nationalization, planning, and the nature of the relationship between the European satellites and the Soviet Union. Spulber throws some interesting light on such relatively little known issues as the nature and effects

of the reparations exacted by Moscow from the former Eastern European enemies, the establishment and the dismantling of the joint companies, and the activities of the Council of Economic Mutual Assistance.

The 17 maps and charts and the 138 statistical tables, some of them very detailed ones, are presumably responsible for the prohibitive price of the book. This may be another reason why greater restraint and selectivity in using statistics would have been justified.

MICHAEL T. FLORINSKY
*Department of Economics,
Columbia University*

Tranquilizing Drugs. A symposium held under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in cooperation with the American Psychiatric Association and the American Physiological Society and presented at the Atlanta, Georgia, meeting, December 27-28, 1955. AAAS Publication No. 46. Harold E. Himwich, Ed. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C., 1957. Members, \$4.50; others, \$5.

Ralph W. Gerard, in a recent article in *Science*, has suggested facetiously that symposia on psychopharmacology may be becoming a drug on the market. Although it is true that the proceedings of a considerable number of meetings dealing with the newer psychiatric drugs have appeared in the last three years, I believe these fill a real need.

The great interest stimulated by the discovery of chemical substances able to alter the symptomatology and behavior of psychiatric patients or the psychological functioning of normal subjects has resulted in an increasing amount of research activity. Symposia held by scientific organizations have enabled investigators to present their own recent findings and to learn of the work and thoughts of others. In rapidly expanding fields such as this, their publication supplements in a useful manner the publication of individual articles in the existing journals and often makes available,

within a single volume, types of articles which would never appear in the same journal because of the limited scope and limited space of many periodicals.

The volume entitled *Tranquilizing Drugs*, edited by Harold E. Himwich, is the result of such a symposium, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia, in December 1955, under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in cooperation with the American Psychiatric Association and the American Physiological Society. The meeting itself was well attended and of great interest, and publication of its proceedings makes generally available an outstanding collection of papers in this expanding field.

The material presented is worthy of special note for a number of reasons. This is the first of such symposia to include such a varied group of basic studies. These range from work on the cerebral synaptic actions of drugs by Marrazzi and Hart, through studies of electroshock latency by Toman *et al.* and depth electrode work as reported by Hendley, Lynes, and Berger, to studies of the alerting response by Himwich and Rinaldi. These articles describe the effects of a number of different drugs on the systems under consideration and thereby provide a particularly interesting overview both of techniques used and of findings obtained in basic studies of electrophysiological properties by means of drugs.

The presence of reports by Grenell of the striking effects of chlorpromazine on brain adenosine triphosphate and by Hoffer of a well-controlled study of the psychological effects of adrenolutin on normal subjects serves to underline the breadth and general interest of this publication.

At the clinical level, the number of drugs reported upon and the various levels of approach and types of patients studied again emphasize the considerable scope of the volume. Work on patients seen in intensive psychotherapy is included, as are controlled studies on chronic schizophrenics. Detailed reports of specific research projects are included, as are competent general articles by experienced clinicians on the usefulness or the side effects of these compounds. The drugs studied include azacyclonol, meproamate, chlorpromazine, reserpine, rescinnamine, canescine, and combinations of reserpine and chlorpromazine. In addition, iproniazid, a drug of considerable recent interest, was used in one study. Although the conclusions arrived at in some of these investigations may be open to qualification or modification as a result of other more recent work, the papers as a whole remain interesting and informative. All in all, Himwich is to be commended for bringing together

a group of papers outstanding in their variety, which present an excellent picture of the field of psychopharmacology at the time the symposium took place.

JONATHAN O. COLE

*Psychopharmacology Service Center,
National Institute of Mental Health,
National Institutes of Health*

Biochemistry and Human Metabolism.

Burnham S. Walker, William C. Boyd, and Isaac Asimov. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md., ed. 3, 1957. vii + 896 pp. \$12.

The third edition of this excellent textbook of human biochemistry incorporates expanded treatment of such topics as the high-energy acyl-mercaptan bond in metabolism, the abnormal hemoglobins, the sodium pump theory of membrane potentials, and the carbon cycle in photosynthesis. The "Tissue chemistry" and "Enzymes" chapters of earlier editions have been subdivided into four chapters, entitled "Carbohydrates and lipids," "Tissue chemistry," "Enzymes and coenzymes," and "Enzyme systems." This last chapter includes a section on thermodynamics.

This edition retains the unique arrangement of subject matter and the excellent chapter on reproduction and heredity of the first and second editions.

CARLETON R. TREADWELL

George Washington University

From the Closed World to the Infinite Universe. Alexandre Koyré. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md., 1957. xii + 313 pp. Illus. + plate. \$5.

Few episodes in the evolution of scientific ideas have been so neglected by historians as the 17th century's infinite expansion of the Aristotelian and early Copernican cosmos. The reasons for the neglect are clear. Since the 17th century produced no evidence for the infinite universe, men like Descartes and Newton could have abandoned the finite cosmos of Copernicus and Kepler only on speculative philosophical grounds. The historian of science has, however, normally spurned speculative philosophy while his colleague in philosophy has shied from the nonmethodological parts of science. As a result, the 17th-century transition "From the Closed World to the Infinite Universe" has, until this recent study by Alexandre Koyré, fallen between two institutionalized areas of scholarship.

Koyré's essay, particularly if it is taken in conjunction with his earlier fundamental contributions to the immediate prehistory of Newtonian dynamics,

demonstrates how unfortunate the almost standard neglect of the borderlines between science and philosophy has been. Whether speculative or not, creative concern with the physically infinite proves to have been one of the universally creative elements in 17th-century thought. In his *Etudes Galiléennes*, Koyré graphically described its fruitful impact upon the formulation of physical problems, emphasizing, for example, its role in the transformation of Galileo's limited principle of inertia into the now familiar Cartesian-Newtonian form. In the present study he turns to the infinite universe itself, discussing first its 16th-century roots and then its effects upon the development of 17th-century philosophy and theology. The subject directs Koyré to many of the period's most fascinating figures. In his first four chapters Nicholas of Cusa, Palingenius, Copernicus, Digges, Bruno, Gilbert, Kepler, Galileo, and Descartes debate the finitude of the universe. In the remaining eight, Henry More, Malebranche, Newton, Bentley, Raphson, Berkeley, Clarke, and Leibnitz discuss the implications of physical infinity for the conceptions of space, force, and Deity and for other concepts besides.

Since Koyré's expository technique is *explication des textes* (perhaps a third of his volume is quotations), the penetrating perceptions that are his own characteristic contribution defy summarization. One of them must serve as example for the whole. In both the Aristotelian and early Copernican cosmos, God's throne had been beyond the outermost sphere. In the infinite universe of Descartes and Newton, there could be no such location; therefore, only an immanent Deity could preserve continuing contact with his creation. As a result, one persistent tendency of 17th-century thought was the identification of God with space or with space-filling fluid. During the century, the previously mystical and incommunicable vision of a Neoplatonic *anima mundi* increasingly became a necessity of rational natural theology.

Readers of Koyré's book can find for themselves many other analyses of equal interest. They may question a few of these. (Should any treatment of the transition to an infinite universe pay so little attention to the revival of atomism? Did Newton reject mechanism so explicitly or unequivocally as Koyré believes?) But these questions will concern details, minor in a volume that makes a new area of study accessible to a new group of readers. The word *accessible*, however, raises a more important problem, about which a word of warning may be in order. The lucid colloquial style which makes this book so pleasant to read often combines with the intrinsic

limitations of exposition through quotation and commentary to disguise both the coherence and the significance of the topics treated. Koyré has provided the material and has illuminated it with uniformly perceptive and occasionally brilliant commentary. Yet both material and commentary sometimes seem too little controlled. It will take careful readers or ones with more than average background to isolate and follow the conceptual threads that make this volume an important contribution to the study of 17th-century thought.

THOMAS S. KUHN

University of California, Berkeley

The Chemistry of Plants. Erston V. Miller, Reinhold, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. vii + 174 pp. Illus. \$4.75.

There are many ways of organizing a discussion of the chemistry of plants. Erston Miller has chosen a classical and straightforward approach. Twelve successive chapters consider, successively, carbohydrates, proteins and other nitrogen compounds, lipides, plant pigments, enzymes, organic acids, plant hormones, glycosides, alkaloids, vitamins, the inorganic elements, and other miscellaneous plant products such as ethylene and various growth inhibitors. The discussion is an elementary one. Thus, chapter I on carbohydrates gives the reader a little elementary carbohydrate chemistry, a small catalog of the various carbohydrates which are found in plants, and a little physiology. This pattern is followed throughout the book, which then, as a whole, is long on classification of substances and on lists of occurrences of substances and very short on metabolism, on structure, on any feeling for the way in which chemical compounds are put together to make a living plant. In part, this is due to Miller's avowed intention to make his book a chemistry book and not a volume on plant physiology. But the attempt is not a wholly successful one. The phenomenology of the occurrence of compounds in plants is all very well, but there are so many compounds present in a plant that it leaves the reader bewildered. Coherence and clarity would have been contributed to the volume by more detailed consideration of the way in which compounds are biochemically related to one another, more detailed discussion of metabolic pathways, and more detailed discussion of the role of each material in the overall chemistry of the life process.

Although this book appears in 1957, much of the material in it is already outdated. There is, for example, no indication of the extent of our knowledge