

good deal of justifiable telescoping—for example, in the simultaneous presentation of the singular and plural of the cases. The explanations of grammar are usually clear and well illustrated, and they are often accompanied by some valuable original comments. There is an abundance of exercise material, and it appears to be adequate. As would be expected, the vocabulary is scientific from the outset, an especially good selection having been made in the way of introductory material. Mention should be made of the final chapter, devoted to wordbuilding.

The readings are possibly the outstanding feature of this book. Beginning with lesson 7, each lesson includes readings (with individual vocabularies) in four fields: aeronautical engineering, biology, chemistry, and physics. These readings have been drawn, with excellent judgment, from Soviet sources, and they should prove invaluable in helping students to acquire a basic vocabulary in these fields. I consider these readings attractive enough to warrant the use of this text as a supplementary “scientific reader” for students taking a traditional course in general Russian. The use of these readings in the classroom may present something of a problem for some teachers. I myself would prefer to work out some elementary readings in various scientific fields for classroom use; this would allow me to assign the textbook readings as outside reading, to each student according to his specialty or choice.

Incidentally, the conscientious student, studying by himself, should find this manual extremely helpful. The grammar by Perry will also be useful to such students, though I think they will find the Turkevich grammar less formidable and probably more attractive.

If I were editing a second edition, I should make some minor changes, some of them deletions. I would omit the grammatical introduction completely and incorporate that material in the text; I question the value of introducing such material before the course is begun. Likewise I should prefer to see the paradigms on pages 19 and 26 omitted or, in any case, placed farther along; students who wish to see the complete paradigms in advance can consult the appendix. I feel the same way about the “Tense and aspect review” on pages 128–31; this includes forms that have not been treated at that point. It is misleading to describe the accusative as expressing duration of time for an action begun (page 28); actually, the accusative can express duration in the past,

present, or future. Many students will find it difficult to understand why *избегать* is a “negative verb”; it would be much better to omit it. On page 39 an example (such as *спальня, спален*) should be given for a nominative in -я with an inserted -е- in the genitive plural. On page 87 the prepositional singular of the type noun *критерий* has been omitted. It is misleading to describe the perfective as the “tense of narration” (page 112); the imperfective aspect may also be used for narration. On page 136 the abbreviation *кпд* is not explained; it stands, of course, for *коэффициент полезного действия*. On page 141, line 3 should read, “if the *stem* ends in a vowel.” On page 144 the description of relative and interrogative pronouns as identical should be carefully limited to *кто* and *что*. On page 178 it would be helpful to give an example of the use of *больше всего*. On page 227, a more important meaning of *занимать* is “to occupy,” and on page 228, *относиться* means “to refer to, to concern.”

These are the misprints I found: On page 7 *ученой* should be substituted for *ученной* and *заранее* for *заранье*. On page 52, read *окисление* for *окислене*. On page 57 the bottom line should read “-ь becomes -ью in both columns.” On page 143, read *объясняйте* for *бьясняйте*. On page 161, read *сильно* for *сильпо*. On page 299, change *приклéть* to *приклéть*.

There is a pressing need to teach as many of our scientists as possible to read Russian, the sooner the better. That is one of the reasons why I feel that we are indebted to John and Ludmilla Turkevich for this excellent and important contribution.

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Taschenbuch der Botanik. vols. 1 and 2.

Walter Mevius. Thieme, Stuttgart, Germany (order from Intercontinental Medical Book Corp., New York). vol. 1, 1959, 291 pp., \$3.05; vol. 2, 1958, 195 pp., \$3.60.

The first volume of the two “pocket books of botany” (actually they are much larger than the title indicates) deals with plant physiology, in a thoroughly up-to-date manner. It includes reproductions of structural formulas of organic compounds and discussions of the physical chemistry of intricate life processes. The reader will be amazed to

see, from this book, what an extensive background in the physical sciences is required of students of botany in Germany.

The second volume, *Plant Taxonomy*, condenses into 188 pages a large amount of material, including numerous drawings. The material, naturally, has to be tightly packed, and the volume is therefore more suitable for use as a reference manual than as a textbook.

FRANCIS JOSEPH WEISS

Arlington, Virginia

The Far East. A modern history. Nathaniel Peffer. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1959. xviii + 489 pp. \$7.50.

Nathaniel Peffer, professor of international relations at Columbia University, has devoted a good share of a scholarly lifetime to the Far East. His book is a skillfully fashioned, well-written, intelligent guide to the background of China, Japan, and their neighbors.

He sees China and Japan—particularly China—as the core of the Far East. He does his best to follow the main-streams of historical development, without diversions or inconsequential details. His book is not for the student cramming facts for an examination but for discerning readers who want to know and to understand how the contemporary situation in East Asia came to be as complex and complicated as it is.

Peffer gives the impression that he thinks while he writes. His is no dry chronicle. He has no pet theories to pawn, no prophecies to offer. His insight comes from hard work and careful study. He does not shy away from personal judgments. His views may arouse sharp disagreement, but they will always command respect.

His story is that of the intrusion of western traders, missionaries, soldiers, sailors, and diplomats into the ancient but changing East. He sketches the intricate patterns of the social fabric of traditional China and Japan and traces with infinite finesse the colorful but imperfect designs which emerged (and are emerging) from a century of blending of East and West. The West had its historical moment of supremacy, only to recede in the backwash of World War II.

As premises for his provocative conclusions, Peffer makes some interesting suggestions about the importance of China (page 7), the spiritual health of