

## Invited Trouble

**Peut-On Prévoir les Catastrophes Naturelles?** MARCEL ROUBAULT. Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1971. 174 pp., illus. Paper, 19 F.

Marcel Roubault is a distinguished French geologist and member of the French Academy of Sciences who has participated in several committees of investigation following natural catastrophes. His book was prompted by the fact that the actions of state and local authorities and of the affected population subsequent to a "natural catastrophe" in many cases invite its renewal.

Roubault examines in detail five types of disasters, namely, floods, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, and the rupture of dams; most of his examples are from France.

The outcome of his investigation is that although the causes of the catastrophes may not be foreseeable at any given instant, enough is known of their effects to permit measures to prevent or minimize destruction of property and life. Among the obstacles to such measures are public ignorance and inertia and the cupidity of speculators. Furthermore, many elected officials have appealed to the supposed inevitability of natural disasters to exonerate themselves for not having taken preventive measures.

In France, floods have been among the most destructive of natural phenomena. The authorities of some river basins, notably the Rhone, have taken united action in flood control, but others are only now beginning. Warnings of impending floods can be given but often are not, owing to the difficulty of allocating responsibility between local and departmental governments.

The area of France most likely to be affected by destructive earthquakes is the Mediterranean coast. This area has also been the scene of rapid development to profit from tourism. Most buildings have been erected without regard for possible earthquakes. The effects of the recent San Gabriel earthquake in California are evidence that this is not a uniquely French phenomenon.

Roubault treats the other three phenomena in like manner, and again human fallibility is seen to be the root of the problem.

In his last two chapters, Roubault examines the administrative and judicial problems that can allow the populace to expose itself to possible destruction.

As with the natural phenomena, these problems are not peculiar to France, and their examination is pertinent. Following the numerous natural catastrophes that have occurred recently, Roubault's book is very timely, and its perusal by the inhabitants of the distressed areas would no doubt clarify the reasons for their distress. As populations grow and more and more land basically unsuitable for building, such as flood plains and unstable hillsides, is utilized, more "natural catastrophes" can be expected.

This book deserves to be read by the general audience for which it was written, for the author presents facts that are inaccessible to most. The style is simple and direct and the vocabulary is such that readers with a limited knowledge of the French language should not hesitate to undertake reading the book.

NORMAN HARTHILL

*Group Seven, Inc., Golden, Colorado*

## Books Received

**Anatomy of a Park.** The Essentials of Recreation Area Planning and Design. Albert J. Rutledge. Illustrations by Donald J. Molmar. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1971. xii, 180 pp. \$15.95.

**Anxiety and Neurotic Disorders.** Barclay Martin. Wiley, New York, 1971. xvi, 160 pp., illus. Cloth, \$6.50; paper, \$3.50. Approaches to Behavior Pathology Series.

**The Botany and Chemistry of Cannabis.** Proceedings of a conference, London, April 1969. C. R. B. Joyce and S. H. Curry, Eds. Churchill, London, 1970 (U.S. distributor, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md.). xiv, 218 pp., illus. \$12.

**The Butterflies of Wisconsin.** James A. Ebner. Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis., 1971. x, 206 pp., illus. Paper, \$5. Popular Science Handbook No. 12.

**Care of the Maternity Patient.** Diana Viotor. Maureen McCutcheon, Ed. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1971. xii, 568 pp., illus. Paper, \$14.95.

**Detection of Signals in Noise.** Anthony D. Whalen. Academic Press, New York, 1971. xiv, 414 pp., illus. \$19.50. Electrical Science Series.

**The Distributional History of the Biota of the Southern Appalachians.** Part 2, Flora. A symposium, Blacksburg, Va., June 1969. Perry C. Holt and Robert A. Paterson, Eds. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, 1970. x, 414 pp., illus. Paper, \$5.95. VPI Research Division Monograph 2.

**Down's Syndrome (Mongolism).** A conference, New York, November 1969. Virginia Apgar, Ed. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1970. Illus. Paper, \$24.50. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, vol. 171, article 2, pp. 303-688.

**From Molecules to Man.** The Gustav Stern Symposium, February 1970. Morris Pollard, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1971. xxx, 328 pp., illus. \$14.50. Perspectives in Virology, vol. 7.

**From Now to Zero.** Fertility, Contraception, and Abortion in America. Leslie Aldridge Westoff and Charles F. Westoff. Little, Brown, Boston, 1971. xxii, 358 pp., illus. Paper, \$3.95.

**General Botany.** Wilhelm Nultsch. Translated from the German edition (Stuttgart, 1968). James E. Gunkel, Transl. Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1971. xiv, 440 pp., illus. \$10.

**General Organic Chemistry.** Raymond B. Seymour. Barnes and Noble, New York, 1971. xx, 558 pp., illus. Paper, \$5.95.

**Geology of Recent Sediments.** Zdeněk Kukal. Translated by Helena Zarubová. Academia, Prague, and Academic Press, New York, 1971. 490 pp., illus. \$17.50.

**Glucose Syrups and Related Carbohydrates.** A symposium, April 1970. G. G. Birch, L. F. Green, and C. B. Coulson, Eds. Elsevier, New York, 1970. x, 118 pp., illus. \$8.95.

**Handbook of Sensory Physiology.** Vol. 1, Principles of Receptor Physiology. W. R. Loewenstein, Ed. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1971. xii, 600 pp., illus. \$46.20.

**Hayfever Plants.** Their Appearance, Distribution, Time of Flowering, and Their Role in Hayfever. Roger P. Wodehouse. Hafner, New York, ed. 2, 1971. xii, 280 pp., illus. \$14.95.

**The Healing of the Mind.** The Technique of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. Reuben Fine. McKay, New York, 1971. xiv, 306 pp. \$8.95.

**Here Comes Everybody.** Bodymind and Encounter Culture. William C. Schutz. Harper and Row, New York, 1971. xx, 296 pp. \$6.95.

**Hormones, Lipids and Miscellaneous.** Vol. 3 of 7th International Congress of Clinical Chemistry, Geneva and Evian, September 1969. J.-P. Felber and J.-J. Scheidegger, Eds. University Park Press, Baltimore, Md., 1970. xiv, 474 pp., illus. \$29.50.

**Integrated Experimental Ecology.** Methods and Results of Ecosystem Research in the German Solling Project. H. Ellenberg, Ed. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1971. xx, 214 pp., illus. \$16. Ecological Studies, vol. 2.

**Introduction to Axiomatic Set Theory.** Jean-Louis Krivine. Translated from the French edition (Paris). Reidel, Dordrecht, Netherlands, and Humanities Press, New York, 1971. viii, 100 pp. \$8.50. Synthese Library.

**Introduction to Computer Science.** Michael Levison and W. Alan Sentance. Gordon and Breach, New York, 1969. 160 pp., illus. \$9.75.

**An Introduction to the Theory of Multipliers.** Ronald Larsen. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1971. xx, 284 pp. \$23.10. Grundlehren der mathematischen Wissenschaften, vol. 175.

**Introduction to the Theory of Solid State Physics.** James D. Patterson. Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1971. x, 388 pp., illus. \$14.50.

**Ion Transport and Membranes.** A Bio-