nuclear arms race and includes, along with discussions of weapons testing, potential civilian casualties, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, a debate with Edward Teller and an analysis of the attacks on critics of the Strategic Defense Initiative. There follow groups of three essays each on automobile energy efficiency and nuclear reactor safety, with a final essay "Blessed are the troublemakers." Alone among the first three volumes of the series, von Hippel's has a section of references and notes at the end.

All the volumes include indexes and, under the heading "Acknowledgements," list original sources of the essays and identify coauthors. Also included are notes "about the author" and "about the series," which is being produced under the editorship of Robert Ubell with an advisory board of physicists.-K.L.

Headline News, Science Views. DAVID JAR-MUL, Ed. National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1991. xvi, 238 pp., illus. Paper, \$14.95.

Another attempt on the part of a learned body to reach a general readership is Headline News, Science Views, whose publication by the National Academy of Sciences is timed to coincide with National Science and

Technology Week, 22-29 April. Rather than mining a variety of professional and semi-professional sources as do the AIP volumes, the Academy for its contributions draws on material distributed to some 250 subscribing newspapers by its Op-Ed Service. As befits the medium for which they were prepared, the 75 essays are brief and uniform in length (a little over two pages each) and are intended to be intelligible even to those who found high school chemistry a struggle. The authorship of the items is varied, including not only natural and social scientists from academia, government, and industry but lawyers, ethicists, and others concerned with issues of science and public policy. An opening section, led off by Bill Cosby, deals with public perceptions and understanding of science, with most of the authors feeling that the state thereof needs to be improved. A group on technology in everyday life includes commentary on such topics as automobile and airplane traffic jams, affordable housing, and natural disasters. Under the rubric "sustainable future" are discussed the greenhouse effect, the state of the sea turtle, radioactive waste disposal, and various issues pertaining to agriculture. With respect to "the nation's health" there are discussions of diet, alcohol abuse, fertility and maternity services, AIDS, and even tobacco chewing. Among the problems specifically designated as social that are dealt with are race relations, the gender gap in wages, child care, and drug treatment. Future prospects involving science that are discussed include missions to Mars, seabed exploration, a post-Iraq energy crisis, and the human genome project. International matters such as technological competitiveness, analytic "tools" to facilitate Soviet democratization, food and agriculture, and vaccination are then taken up, followed by discussions of ethical issues ranging from those posed by the "new diagnostics" to the use of animals as laboratory subjects. The book ends with reflections on the recruitment of future scientists and engineers, problems considered ranging from "kindergarten stress" and math anxiety through the challenge of creationism to the "mommy track" and the representation of blacks. Issues of keeping the scientific household itself in order do not loom large in the collection, though there is one contribution on fraud. In addition to the text (which, it is reported, is reproduced as originally published) the volume contains a number of cartoons emanating directly from newspapers that have used the written material. An index has also been added.—K.L.

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