

Post-War Educational Reconstruction in the United Nations

21st Educational Year Book of International Institute of Teachers College, Columbia University. Edited by I. L. Kandel. Pp. ix+341. (New York: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, 1944.) 3.70 dollars.

THIS book is of special interest at the present time, when attention is being directed to the future of education, and to the prospects of a new start, based upon the ideals for which the War has been, and still is being, fought. The havoc wrought by the aggressors on educational systems in the occupied countries is here described; the problems that confront each of the countries are discussed; and the programme for reconstruction in the years following the final victory of the United Nations is presented. The book contains articles on Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Scotland, the Union of South Africa and the United States. The omission of an article on Soviet Russia is due to circumstances over which the editor had no control; and the absence of an article on Yugoslavia reflects the uncertain political situation in that country when plans for this volume were being made.

This is the twenty-first volume of the Educational Yearbook of the International Institute of Teachers College, Columbia University. During the whole period the Yearbook has been edited by Prof. I. L. Kandel, who now has to make the melancholy announcement that this volume will be the last in the series. The news will be received with great regret by students of education in many lands who have derived both pleasure and profit from the Yearbook. The editor places on record his indebtedness to the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which made publication possible, to the willing co-operation of contributors, and to his able secretary, Miss Gilroy. To all these must be added Prof. Kandel himself, the moving spirit of the whole enterprise.

The Blackbird

A Contribution to the Study of a Single Avian Species. By A. F. C. Hillstead. Pp. 104+19 plates. (London: Faber and Faber, Ltd., 1945.) 8s. 6d. net.

IT is wrong, to my mind, to tell a child not to be cruel to animals; it puts the very idea of cruelty into his mind, and the living creatures remain animals, or even beasts, for him. He had better grow up among the mouse-people and the sparrow-people and the pussy-cat-people, and all the other friendly people who share the world with each other and with him. This is the wholesome spirit in which Mr. A. F. C. Hillstead writes about the blackbird, in the company of which he has lived for years, until he knows him body and soul. There is not a thing in his little life which Mr. Hillstead has not studied and described: his song, his 'territory' or law of landed property, his courtship and nest-building and care of his young, his migrations on holiday jaunts, his general intelligence, and all the diverse occupations of his lifelong day. Mr. Hillstead has much to tell under all these heads, and more besides. The blackbird is no world-wanderer, like stork or swallow, but he does love a change of air; he likes to 'go places', like civilized man. He comes across the Channel to share our milder, insular winter; he is

partial to Ireland; he cares little for Devon, and openly dislikes Cornwall, strange to say. His song is described with full sympathy and comprehension; "by and large, it has no equal; there is nothing to touch the rich flute-like tones which are so essentially British".

The whole story is illustrated with photographs by bird-loving friends. These are wonderfully beautiful; they show all sorts of situations of the nest, and all sorts of occupations of the bird. In short, we have here, to the life, our old friend "so black of hue, with orange-tawny bill"; and his wife and children, and his house and home, and everything which is his.

D'ARCY W. THOMPSON.

Sun Compass

By Francis Chichester. Pp. 10+Compass. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1944.) 5s. net.

THE sun compass is designed for use anywhere in a belt round the world within two hundred miles north and south of a line from Birmingham to Berlin. Knowing the date and the local time, a simple setting of the sun compass enables one to take the sun's bearings to an accuracy of about 2°, and with practice an accuracy of 1° is possible. A rotating disk has the months marked with dates which vary from six to twenty days. Thus September 16-22 is included in one date, June 1-21 in another, and so on, and a 'model sun' for each of these periods is marked on the disk. On a transparent graticule are marked the hours from 4 to 20 and also curves showing the sun's bearings from 50° to 300°. The bearings are given for every 10°; but it is easy to interpolate to an accuracy of about 1°.

On the back of the card there is a compass rose by which bearings other than those of the sun can be obtained. This involves nothing more formidable than setting up a pencil on a degree circle, so that the shadow of the sun falls on the centre of the compass rose, which is then rotated until the shadow cuts the degree scale at the desired division. The maximum error that can occur at places 3° north or south of the Birmingham-Berlin line is 3°, but this takes place only at midsummer and even then only at certain times in the day. It seems possible that there may be a demand for this very convenient instrument (it measures 5½ in. by 5 in.) for other latitudes. Having checked some of the results, using rigorous formulæ and four-figure tables, it is surprising to find the high degree of accuracy obtained over the range of latitudes.

M. D.

The Science of Nutrition

By Prof. Henry C. Sherman. Pp. xi+253. (London: Oxford University Press, 1944.) 15s. net.

THIS is a book about nutrition for the layman. Prof. Sherman describes the three main functions of food as first, provision of energy; secondly, supply of structural material for the growth and maintenance of tissue; and thirdly, the provision of substances which maintain the body's self-regulatory system and physico-chemical balance in tissue.

On this basis is built an excellent survey of the recent developments in the science of nutrition in its personal and economic aspects and applications. Purely scientific terms and descriptions are kept to a minimum, but a selected bibliography is provided for those readers whose interests go beyond mere broad information. The wide scope of this work is indicated by the inclusion of a summary of work on 'tagged' atoms in the study of metabolism.