

SHORT REVIEWS

Corridors of Power

By C. P. Snow. Pp. viii + 408. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.; New York: Charles Scribner Sons, 1964.) 25s. net.

THE title of Sir Charles Snow's latest novel in the *Strangers and Brothers* sequence appears to have been first used in one of his earlier novels some eight years ago, and not, as the currency of the phrase might now suggest, in his Godkin Lectures, "Science and Government". The phrase almost inevitably turns the mind of a scientist to those Lectures, and the novel might be described as an attempt to express in fiction the essential conflict which Sir Charles discussed in them and his subsequent postscript. There is, of course, much else, and the particular political issue on which the book centres is one of the place of nuclear weapons in defence policy, and not those of the Second World War. The setting of the whole drama of power and influence is unfolded with the same skill and insight which characterize earlier novels in the series, the accuracy of which, from the point of view of the scientist, Lord Rutherford once acknowledged. Quite apart from its merits as a novel, the book could well contribute something to the deeper understanding of the Civil Service by the scientist, perhaps also, especially in one passage which recalls A. H. Compton's description of the heart-searchings of the nuclear physicists in *Atomic Quest*, to the understanding of the scientist by the administrator and politician.

Office Economy by O and M

(A Preliminary Text-book on Methods.) By G. E. Milward and P. H. S. Wroe. Pp. ix + 140. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1964.) 21s.

THE Organization and Methods Training Council was established in 1957 by nine companies intent on developing advanced training courses and preparing and testing a text-book on simple office methods, incorporating their experience and intended for the use of college students and others. Such a text, called *Organization and Methods*, was produced and has been eminently successful. On the whole, however, it covered too wide a field for the preliminary training required by industry, and *Office Economy by O and M* has been designed to deal particularly with methods training. It would provide an admirable basis for such training courses and, after describing the context of methods work, shows the fundamental approach to simplifying processes involving the choosing of the most suitable methods, the design of forms, various ways for reproducing and copying documents and information, clerical aids, the conduct of enquiry and procedure charts, office machinery, and the effects and evaluation of changes in methods. The book itself is an admirable example of how words can be used simply, economically and effectively. On its merits it should repay close examination by all who wish to improve the quality and efficiency of their office administration. T. H. HAWKINS

Rural Life and Urbanized Society

By Lee Taylor and Arthur R. Jones, jun. Pp. xiv + 493. (London and New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.) 60s.

THIS American text-book is aimed mainly, I should imagine, at professional rural sociologists or those in training. But it differs from many forerunners in that it

is readable—in the armchair as well as at the office desk—and because it adheres closely to its central theme, that is, the marked changes which have occurred in the relationships between town and country people—especially the urbanization of social organizations—during the present century.

The material is arranged in four parts. The first brings out the changes, in intensity and kind, of rural-urban differences. The second part discusses the influences of farm, non-farm and suburban peoples and their work, as well as the increasing use made of the countryside for 'vacationing' of all kinds. The last actually has increased remarkably during the past decade and is becoming highly organized in many parts of the United States. The third section concentrates on the social aspects of food and fibre production; the present-day American farm is revealed as primarily and necessarily a business organization or, to use a present but horrible piece of American shorthand, an 'agribusiness'. The fourth and final group of chapters bring out the increasing dependence of rural people on urban-inspired and directed social institutions.

Numerous book references and notes bring together research material and works of reference from all over the United States. At the end of each chapter is a list of selective readings; here also is a summary of the chapter. I would have preferred these summaries to have been assembled as a concluding chapter so that the book and its authors might have come to a dignified conclusion rather than, as at present, a full stop. The text is well written, and the material points to many trends which we can see, or will be seeing, in the United Kingdom as we approach the state of one family one car (at least).

H. E. BRACEY

Human Histology

By Bruce Cruickshank, T. C. Dodds and Dugald L. Gardner. Pp. vii + 268. (Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone, Ltd., 1964.) 70s.

AS the title of *Human Histology* implies, the authors have set out to use human rather than animal material for the production of about 300 colour photomicrographs which illustrate the text. These photographs show excellent colour rendering; but the detail obtained is less than it would have been in black-and-white photographs. The text is limited to a description of these plates. References to the physiological and biochemical significance of structures have usually been avoided. The term histology has been taken in a strict sense and tissue from human diseases of physiological interest are not described, nor are many of the changes occurring in different physiological conditions. Within these limitations, the aims of the authors have been admirably achieved, and despite its price it will undoubtedly be popular with medical students.

The limitations are such that the dissociation of structure and function is more marked than in some nineteenth-century text-books of histology. This, in my opinion, is really undesirable. It might at an early stage of a medical student's career inculcate an approach which is the antithesis of all that he will be made to learn later. Now that, under the influence of pathologists such as Cameron and Florey, the teaching of pathology integrates structural changes so closely with functional and biochemical ones, it does seem unwise to start a new text-book of histology