

Man in Society

Patterns of Human Organization. Editorial Board: Dr. Mary Douglas, Sir Gerald Barry, Dr. J. Bronowski, James Fisher and Sir Julian Huxley. (The Macdonald Illustrated Library.) Pp. 367. (London: Macdonald and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1964.) 55s. net.

THIS book is a large one and is profusely illustrated, usually in colour. The style is that of a popular encyclopaedia of social knowledge with two page sub-units for the treatment of each topic. Printed in Italy, the book is handsomely produced, and the price makes it good value for money. Historic treatments of myths and customs, totem and taboo, to modern theories of social organization, are given.

The publishers are to be congratulated for not having forgotten the fundamental importance of an examination of society at a global level, in their science series. It is all too easy to present the physical and biological sciences with little or no reference to their social implications, now a matter of abundant life or squalid death to humanity at large.

Man in Society is the sixth volume of a library of knowledge suitable for the general reader. It is a study of social science in the language of the layman.

The opening chapters of the book assess how far the investigation of Man's prehistory helps us to understand social behaviour and to what extent his physical differences may affect that behaviour. The greater part of the book deals with present-day social relations. Separate chapters are devoted to different aspects of society—family, war, play and so on. Two facts constantly appear: the first is that the variety of human customs and belief is apparently endless, and the second is that, even so, social behaviour and social situations are everywhere basically the same. The final chapters deal with social change and progress and with theories about society. The field is so wide and the number of subjects touched so great that the treatment is often slight and leaves a desire for more. It is well that there is a comprehensive, systematic reading list and a glossary of terms. Each of the contributory authors is an expert in his or her own field and has been able to write in simple non-technical English. If fifth- and sixth-formers have bed-side books, here is a most attractive example.

W. L. SUMNER

Hochschulführer (Die Zeit Bücher)

Herausgegeben von Petra Kipphoff, Thomas von Randow und Dieter E. Zimmer. Pp. 478. (Hamburg: Nannen-Verlag GmbH, 1964.) n.p.

THE editors, three prominent writers on education and sociology and members of the staff of *Die Zeit*, have assembled in *Hochschulführer* a unique set of essays. These include a survey of general (Dahrendorf) universities in the German Democratic Republic (Eastern Zone), by R. W. Leonhardt, and the view of an 'outsider', Prof. L. Forster of the University of Cambridge, perhaps one of the best experts on German universities in Britain. Following these comprehensive analyses, which alone would merit translation and a deeper study by all members of academic staffs, is provided concise and up-to-date information on German universities. This includes, of course, German colleges of advanced technology which, after all, are some 150 years older than their counterparts in Britain but which, like the latter, developed from former polytechnic institutes.

It would be going too far to give details of the interest in which this book abounds. Certainly it makes one wonder why our own excellent *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook* has no such introductory studies prefacing the statistical and information sections. Likewise, an academic glossary provides guidance through the labyrinth of university terminology, and a statistical section has much to prove the theses proposed in the three essays which

open the book. Of special importance in the glossary section are the paragraphs on "Academic Freedom" and "Academic Jurisdiction", but no doubt every reader will find much food for thought, and in many cases envy or consolation.

This review is not intended to be exhaustive, but only to arouse interest in its publication. However, I am convinced that *Hochschulführer* is a book which should be in the possession of every university department and every Civil Service office concerned in any way with universities. Moreover, here are the best points of guidance for choice of a German department for students of German in the United Kingdom, for provisions of grants from the Federal Government (Honeff Model) and for special scholarships to research students. J. HORNE

A Manual of Physical Methods in Organic Chemistry

By F. L. J. Sixma and Prof. Hans Wynberg. Pp. xii + 342. (New York and London: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1964.) 66s.

AS physical and instrumental methods of analysis grow in importance in industrial and analytical laboratories, so there is a greater need for these techniques to be taught at university and technical college level. F. L. J. Sixma and Prof. H. Wynberg's *Manual of Physical Methods in Organic Chemistry* is an expanded and revised translation of the text used for this purpose in the University of Amsterdam. It is written very much from a practical point of view, containing only such theory as is essential, and gives full details for many experimental exercises.

This volume is divided into seven parts, the first and largest being devoted to chromatographic and allied techniques. Following a discussion of the relative properties of adsorption and partition separations, including counter-current distributions, experiments in paper, thin-layer and gas chromatography are described. The latter subject, divided into gas-liquid and gas-solid modes, is fairly comprehensively covered in 20 pages, although the very sensitive electron-capture detector is not mentioned. Chapters on the uses of ion-exchange resins and paper electrophoresis conclude this section.

Part 2 covers the theory and some practical applications of distillation, crystallization and sublimation, including such subjects as vacuum and molecular distillation, freeze-drying and zone-refining. The second largest section (89 pages) deals efficiently with optical and spectroscopic methods, including spectropolarimetry and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy together with the more usual ultra-violet, visible and infra-red spectrophotometry. This section is particularly tied to a description of the uses of the various commercial instruments depicted, although the experiments are widely applicable.

Electrochemical methods include potentiometry, conductometry and polarography, but the treatment of this section is rather sketchy; coulometry is neglected. The book ends with three short sections on miscellaneous topics such as semi-micro boiling-point determinations, molecular weights, tracer techniques, using carbon-14 and deuterium, and a brief note on reaction kinetic studies.

Each chapter contains a short but up-to-date list of references for further reading. The *Manual* as a whole forms an excellent guide around which an instruction course for undergraduates, technical students or laboratory assistants could be built, and its usefulness is by no means limited to those instruments described therein. Unfortunately its excellent presentation in terms of clear type-face, well-set-out pages and ample illustrations is somewhat marred by the 'paper-back' type of binding which would certainly not stand up to the repeated laboratory usage that the text requires and deserves.

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