

the acknowledged and progressing science of modern genetics. This is the more astonishing since, as Crane has emphasised, Michurin himself was far removed from the wholesale condemnation of Mendelism which characterises the attitude of his disciples. The last chapter, "The situation of science," discusses briefly how in any modern state an integration of science with other social activities can be reconciled with the autonomy and unity of science. The author's lively interest in education is shown by the fact that a large part of this chapter is taken up with interesting and valuable suggestions for the aims, scope, and methods of a revived form of biological teaching in schools and universities.

The ultimate success of a book on scientific matters depends largely on the answers to two questions: for whom is the book intended? will it prove satisfactory to the class of intended readers? Dr Huxley clearly intends his book for the general educated reader; for he presupposes no knowledge of genetics, biology or scientific procedure in general, and no more knowledge of the Lysenko controversy than any reader of newspapers cannot have helped imbibing. But also the expert, who may think himself thoroughly surfeited with the subject, will find his interest re-awakened by the many new details added in quotations and personal reminiscences. There is, however, the danger that a book which appeals to the expert as well as to the lay-person may, in the end, not satisfy either. In the reviewer's opinion, this danger has not been completely avoided in the present case. In particular it seems that the general reader may be the sufferer from the wide scope of the book. The exposition of genetics and evolution in chapter four may prove somewhat too condensed for him; it also comes too late to help him to an understanding of genetical questions touched upon in the first three chapters. The last two chapters will be of interest to every cultured reader, geneticist or non-geneticist; but from the narrower point of view of the genetics controversy they may weaken the impression made by the first part of the book. There is no doubt that there will be many readers who, for political reasons, are bent on finding excuses for the Russian attitude and on finding fault with Dr Huxley's presentation of it. It will be difficult for them to do so while Huxley is in his own field. By venturing out of it, and especially by bringing in political arguments, Dr Huxley opens the way for just those types of argument which he previously has been at great pains to show up as irrelevant to the major issue. It is, of course, obvious that one of the objects of the book is just this widening of the issue to embrace the whole problem of State interference with any kind of cultural activity: but it would be a great pity if Dr Huxley, by casting his nets too wide, should have reduced the chance of succeeding in his prime purpose which consisted in "dispelling the fog of misunderstanding" which surrounds the genetics controversy.

C. AUERBACH.

DEATH OF A SCIENCE IN RUSSIA. By Conway Zirkle. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1949. Pp. 319. \$3.75.

This book is one of a number of works dealing with the "Genetics Controversy" in the Soviet Union. It contains an exceptionally complete account of the events which have taken place in that country since 1936, culminating in the destruction of the science of genetics in 1948. Gathered

together in one telling volume are the relevant parts of all the documents which bear upon this tragic story. And these documents are accompanied by the thoughtful comments of an intelligent biologist. Those of us who for some years watched the vigorous and spectacular development of genetics in the Soviet Union with high hopes and vicarious pride will be deeply moved by Professor Zirkle's dedication of the book.

"To that great company of Russian geneticists and cytologists, now dispersed and destroyed, to those who lost their positions and are denied the exercise of their profession, to those who simply disappeared, to those who died under mysterious circumstances, to those who, to save their families, recanted : this book is respectfully dedicated."

And so say all of us.

S. C. HARLAND.