REVIEWS

SCIENCE AND LIBERAL EDUCATION. By Bentley Glass. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 1959. Pp. 115. \$3.00.

This book, based upon a series of three lectures given at Tulane University in 1958, deals with the role of science in a modern civilisation and the need for a greater knowledge of science in a liberal education. Since the author is a geneticist it is only natural that he stresses the role of genetics in human affairs. The introductory chapter on genetics in the service of man includes some of the major contributions of genetics to agriculture and modern medicine. The value of ionising radiation to produce desired mutations in bacteria and plants is discussed, but the genetic hazards to man are also considered. Modern medicine has greatly increased the life span of modern man, but it too has created problems by preserving certain deleterious genes in the human population.

In dealing with a liberal education in the age of science the author joins C. D. Darlington (*The Conflict of Science and Society*), C. P. Snow (*The Two Cultures*) and other eminent scientists in an appeal for a better understanding of the functions of science. Science has enabled man to acquire enormous amounts of inanimate energy. This acquisition of energy leads to enormous power, which can be used for either good or evil. It can be used for man's benefit or it can be used to enslave or destroy the human race. Thus it is necessary to effect a proper balance between the sciences and the humanities to insure the wise use of science.

In the final chapter the author deals with evolution and human values, and the role of science in freeing the human race from poverty, ignorance and superstition. Early in human evolution some degree of co-operation became of value in survival. Co-operation and ethical values are even more essential for the survival of modern man because of the vast power he has acquired through the application of science to material progress. The author has dealt with these problems in a concise and effective manner.

KARL SAX.

PRACTICAL HEREDITY WITH DROSOPHILA. By Gordon Haskell. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd. 1961. Pp. xli+124. 10s. 6d.

This book deals in an introductory way with the use of *Drosophila* as a tool for illustrating the principles of genetics. It is intended for the use of schools and colleges, and includes information on the apparatus required, the techniques used in handling and feeding the flies. In addition the author has compiled a list of practical exercises together with details of mutant stocks suitable for carrying them out: the introduction includes a list of places where these stocks may be obtained. A special chapter deals with cytological procedures.

Bearing in mind that this book will be used widely in schools, issue may be taken with some of the apparatus and handling techniques which are described. A full explanation of a bottle washing machine is given. A hair-grip bent at right angles and attached to a pencil is recommended for separating the flies; and forceps for picking them up by their wings.