

(Mentor Books: paperbound 35¢). Like most texts that attempt sweeping surveys in condensed format, it offers the advantages of viewing a part of our vital economic structure in perspective.

On the debit side, many basic issues suffer because of brevity and oversimplification. For instance, the question of "guaranteed annual wages" is squeezed into two sentences. Since here is a question which affects a great number of people, both labor and management, and has aroused the curiosity of others, a glossed-over treatment results in misleading by omission. At the bargaining table the "guaranteed annual wage" is assuming major economic proportions but in a direction different from what its description implies. Primarily it is a demand upon the employer to supplement unemployment compensation as it exists now under the social security program. Such chapters as "Wages Are Becoming Less Unequal," "How High Can Wages Be?," and "Difference in Earnings of Various Groups" provide a basic understanding of our labor force and its expanding horizons in terms of recent history, expanding opportunities, and factors influencing wages and employment. This survey affords a helpful introduction to a complex field.

—SIEGFRIED MANDEL.

WORDS AS TOOLS: Word-raiding has been going on stealthily over many years in business and industrial fields so that now the same word may have different meanings to people in different fields. The word "offset," for example, suggests different things to surveyors, printers, commission merchants, mechanics, and construction people. In addition, new techniques and methods have sired a profusion of terms which makes it difficult even for people at home in a certain field to keep abreast of terminology. To produce a semblance of order, Robert J. Schwartz has compiled "The Dictionary of Business and Industry" (Forbes, \$7.95; with thumb index, \$8.95). Some 45,000 special words, including legal and trade terms, are concisely and intelligibly defined. From all indications, Mr. Schwartz's research has been painstaking, utilizing existing dictionaries, checking with trade associations, and consulting government bureaus. One element which might have enhanced the value of this dictionary further would have been indications after the word or term defined as to the field to which it is specifically applicable. A miscellany of useful business information on weights, measures, comparative currency tables, and revised foreign trade definitions forms an introductory section.

—S. M.

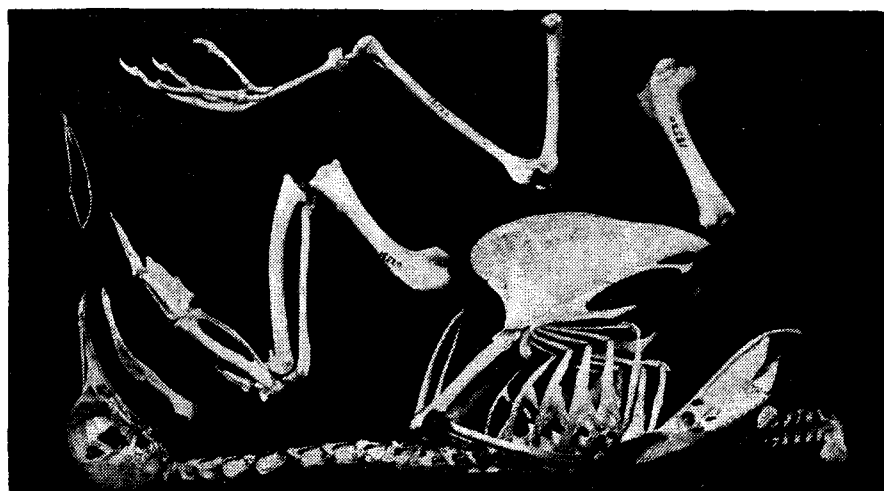


Huge flight of passenger pigeons was recorded by newspaper artist; birds flew so close together that one shot could kill seventy pigeons.



The species had small heads, small necks. Males had beautiful plumage.

GONE WITH THE DODO: To earlier generations of Americans the elegant, bold-eyed birds shown at left were one of spring's most familiar harbingers. With a deafening roar they came North—as many as five billion of them—blackening the skies, feeding in grain fields, and calling to each other sociably all the while. But by 1914 the passenger pigeons were birds of the past, all of them having been killed. Today little more is left to remember them by than the few pictures shown here. These, together with a wealth of nature lore about them, have been collected in "The Passenger Pigeon," by A. W. Schorger (University of Wisconsin Press, \$7.50), a very detailed and scholarly study of the life of a bird which fell prey to what bird-lovers have called one of man's most thoughtless acts. —JOHN HAVERSTICK.



This skeleton of a passenger pigeon is one of only fourteen known to have been preserved. The species was never protected by law.

The Man and . . .

"Young Sam Johnson," by James L. Clifford (McGraw-Hill, 377 pp. \$5.75) and **"The Highland Jaunt,"** by Moray McLaren (William Sloane Assoc. 272 pp. \$4), both deal with the great dictionary compiler: the first treating his formative years, the latter the famous trip he took through the Hebrides with his biographer, Boswell. Joseph Wood Krutch, our reviewer, is the author of a widely read and highly regarded biography of Johnson.

By Joseph Wood Krutch

EVERYBODY has been told—correctly enough—that Boswell's "Johnson" is the greatest biography in the English language. Nearly everybody knows also that since Boswell's time innumerable other books about his hero have been published and that during the past few years a perfect spate of them has poured from the presses. Is there anything more to be learned or said? Surprisingly enough, the answer is a simple Yes—as two new books, one relatively slight, the other truly imposing, conclusively demonstrate.

Different as Moray McLaren's "The Highland Jaunt" and James L. Clifford's "Young Sam Johnson" are in scope and method, they nevertheless have this much in common: both present a certain number of new facts and both use those facts to paint a vivid picture which brings us close to Johnson and his eighteenth-century world; which make it easier to imagine what the experience of being Dr. Johnson in that world meant physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Mr. McLaren is a loyal Scot long familiar with the Hebrides and drenched in Highland lore. Long familiar also with Johnson and Boswell, he followed the track of their famous journey with an eye open for every tangible vestige of the world they saw and with a mind alert to reconstruct that world out of his knowledge of past social and political history. His is a discursive book, strung on the thread of his own journey but including historical anecdote, antiquarian fact, and meditations on the two famous travelers.

Perhaps nothing in the whole John-

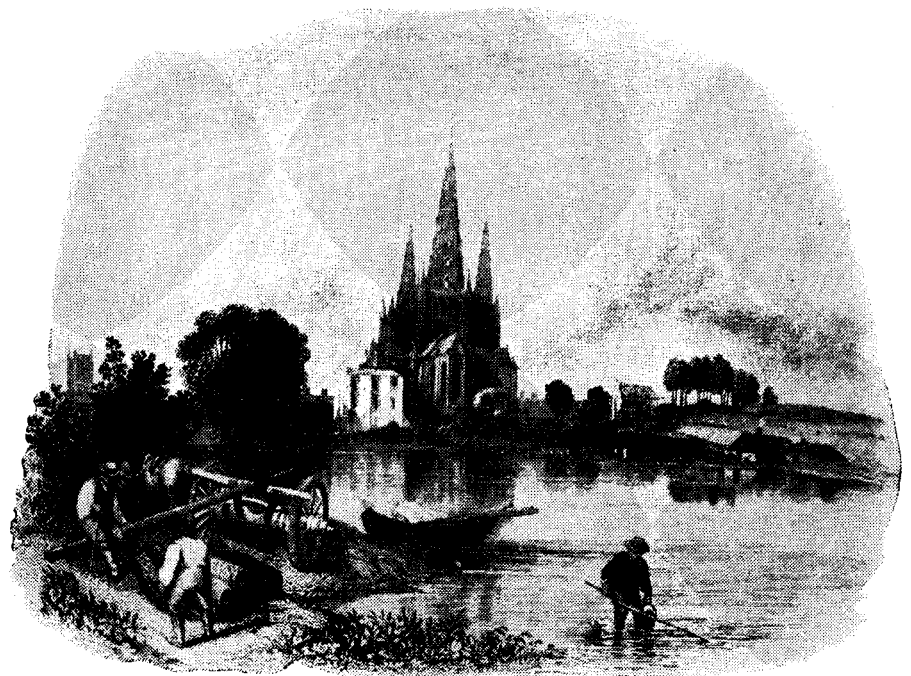
son saga is harder to grasp imaginatively than his improbable "jaunt." Fine as both Johnson's and Boswell's own accounts of it are, the very fact that they are contemporary and therefore take for granted much that we do not know suspends the reader in a sort of void. Mr. McLaren fills that void. The Highlands and the Hebrides are realer places than most readers of Johnson have ever been able to make them seem. "The Highland Jaunt" is a fine prolegomenon to either Johnson's or Boswell's first-hand account.

Professor Clifford has long been known as one of the most devoted, indefatigable, and eagle-eyed of the Johnsonian scholars. He has considered nothing which had any bearing on his subject alien to him. He has pursued facts—any facts—down the labyrinthine ways of written and oral tradition and run them to earth in unpublished letters, diaries, and parish records. His biography of Johnson's friend Mrs. Thrale is not only standard but was based upon a great mass of new material. Even better known perhaps are his reviews and evaluations of all the recent contributions to Johnsonian scholarship. Now he has brought much of his tremendous knowledge to bear upon the obscurest part of Johnson's life.

We are nowadays inclined to be-

lieve that the most important part of any man's biography is the early part. Yet because Boswell did not meet Johnson until the latter, already famous and established, was well past fifty—also because Johnson himself was confessedly unwilling to talk much about his early struggles—we have always both known comparatively little about his formative years. During the past decade or two quite a little information which was entirely inaccessible to Boswell has been dug out. Professor Clifford has done a good deal of digging on his own. The result is that he is now prepared to write a "Young Sam Johnson" far fuller, far more detailed than anyone would have supposed possible.

THE most surprising thing is, however, not that facts about Johnson's career, about the schools he went to, the places where he worked, and the political and social conditions of the places where he lived have been discovered but that they can be made to mean so much and that both Johnson himself and the worlds of Lichfield or London become so much more real because of them. Where most biographers would be content to tell us, for example, that Johnson's father was a parchment manufacturer as well as a bookseller, that the infant Johnson was taken to London to be "touched for the evil," and that he later attended the Lichfield grammar school, Professor Clifford knows precisely what a parchment maker did and just how successfully Michael Johnson's father did it; what a coach journey to London involved at that time; how the ceremony of touching was conducted; and just how good—very good



Lichfield Cathedral—"the obscurist part of Johnson's life."