

ATLASES

"Hammond's Ambassador World Atlas" (C. S. Hammond & Co. 416 pp. \$12.50); *"Hammond's Pictorial Travel Atlas of Scenic America,"* by E. L. Jordan (C. S. Hammond & Co. 256 pp. \$10); *"The Columbus Atlas,"* by John Bartholomew (McGraw-Hill Co. 137 pp. \$10); *"Oxford Economic Atlas of the World,"* prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit and the Cartographic Department of the Clarendon Press, Oxford (Oxford University Press. 152 pp. \$7), are reviewed by John Haverstick.

THIS is the equinoctual season of the year when atlas-lovers like to take down their volumes, heave them onto the dining-room table, and spend a pleasant hour or two in vernal contemplation of the world around them. In an effort to help them orient themselves we have examined four of the latest crop of atlases.

Of the new atlases two are native: "Hammond's Ambassador World Atlas" and "Hammond's Pictorial Travel Atlas of Scenic America." The non-native pair are "The Columbus Atlas" and "The Oxford Economic Atlas of the World." These latter two came to the U.S. by way of Great Britain, but they have now been naturalized by virtue of the fact that they bear the imprints of American publishers. The two Hammond atlases, of course, were issued by C. S. Hammond & Co. of Maplewood, N. J. (lat. 40°, long. 74°).

As American products the Hammond atlases understandably tend to be bigger and gaudier than their British contemporaries. The Hammond Ambassador, for example, measures a grand total of 11 by 14½ inches, weighs more than six pounds, and contains 326 maps, 241 of which are in full color and eighty-five of which are large inset maps. As atlases go it can hardly be beat. In it there are ten world maps (one of which folds out to 3x4 feet), a plenitude of maps of every country and continent, and such

special maps as keys to vegetation, population, temperature, rainfall, railroads, and airlines. This, of course, has not prevented the experts on atlases from registering some objections, though gentle ones. They have decried the crowding of names into some areas (like Texas), have deplored the lack of differentiating colors in a few special maps, and they have pointed out that in the Resource-Relief map of Italy that country is represented only by a sheaf of wheat whereas in the Tables of Social and Economic Data it is clear that Italy produces over forty well-known and economically important products. Yet, for all these disadvantages the experts also agree on the Hammond Ambassador's advantages. They have been pleased that full-page maps have been devoted to Korea, Burma, Thailand, and the Philippines (though they consider such innovations highly temporal), and they have been especially pleased that it is possible to locate such newsworthy places as the Savannah River Atomic Energy Reservation, Yucca Flats, Frenchman Flat, and the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range. The experts have also been pleased with the fact that, clearly, the editors were in touch with such venerable cartological agencies as the American Geographical Society, Direccion General de Estadistica of Bolivia, Cartographic Services of the Ministry of Colonies for the Belgian Congo, and Statistisches Bundesamt of Western Germany.

"Hammond's Pictorial Travel Atlas" is a more popularly conceived volume, dedicated more to pictures than to maps. There are pictures of the swan boats in Boston's Public Garden, of azalea blossoms in Mobile, Alabama, of the only house Lincoln ever owned in Springfield, Illinois, and of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. Scattered among these are a few sightseers' maps, but the most important part of the book has little to do with maps or pictures, for that matter. The important part of the book is the text, and in it a good atlas man can find the answers to a thousand-odd interesting (and, of course, important) questions. Some of these: From where can the highest mountain and the deepest valley in the U.S. be



seen simultaneously on a clear day? (Answer: from Dante's View, Death Valley). In which city can you watch elk quietly grazing along the side streets? (Answer: in Banff, in the Canadian Rockies). How many islands are there in the famous Thousand Island Archipelago of the St. Lawrence River? (Answer: 1,692.)

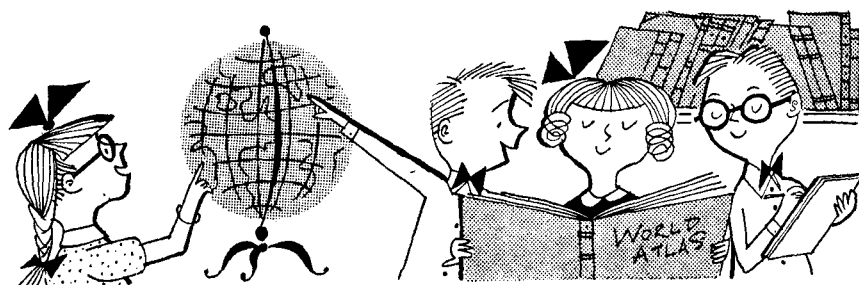
Having pondered these thoughts the atlas reader can then turn to such solid facts (and maps) as those offered in the British atlases. "The Oxford Economic Atlas of the World" was published to meet the needs of economists, geographers, and other students engaged in trade, industry, or agriculture. As such it is full of commodity maps, showing the principal centers for cereals (including potatoes), fibres (*sic*), rubber and textile manufactures, beverages, and tobacco, sugar, and forest products. In the index are to be found tables of exports and imports of the chief countries involved with each commodity, and in case it worries you the editors have explained that import totals are likely to differ from export totals simply because it takes a while for the former figures to catch up with the latter.

"The Columbus Atlas" contains 160 pages of fully-colored maps and an index of nearly 50,000 place names. It is strongest on maps of the South Sea Islands, the West Indies, and other territories which, according to its editors, have sprung into prominence as a result of air travel. But it is also fond of the egg-shaped Atlantis projection of the world which gives a thoroughly refreshing viewpoint from an egg-shaped dining-room table.

GAZETTEER

"The Macmillan World Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary," edited by T. C. Collocott and J. O. Thorne (Macmillan. 792 pp. \$6.95), is reviewed by Wayne M. Hartwell, Librarian, Editorial Department, F. E. Compton & Company.

CONSIDERING the speed with which even geographic knowledge changes these days, a real need has arisen for a new gazetteer to supplement the wealth of current at-



las material. Macmillan, with this publication reflecting careful editing of geographic news through the first half of 1954, has almost completely satisfied that need.

The editors frankly admit that they have made no attempt to include every place in the world. What they have attempted in their selection is a capsule record of every important geographic fact. They have been successful. Their major country descriptions, complete with easily used subdivisions, are admirably concise. The current quality of their information is also impressive; the descriptions of Kitimat, Thule, and Chandigarh serve as excellent examples of their editorial awareness of how much of the news has to be reflected in geographic descriptions.

The inclusion of a wealth of geographical terms in the major alphabet adds to the value of the publication. The definitions of the common terms are more than adequate, while the inclusion of more exotic terms, such as "haboob," "ghibli," and "leste," gives the volume special value.

At least some American users will resent the rather thorough British bias which shows in the selection of

material. In close sequence Haddington, Scotland (pop. 5,000), is described in eleven lines, while Hagerstown, Maryland (pop. 36,000), is recorded only as "Mfg tn on Antietam Creek." Haddonfield, N. J. (pop. 10,000), is omitted entirely, while in relation to Hackney the fact that "Hackney Marsh is the biggest playing field in London, with 140 football pitches," is reported. This particularly extraneous bit of information isn't even included in Baedeker's London.

Purists also will object to the slightly casual handling of population figures. They are borrowed from the most recent census reports or reputable estimates and rounded off to the closest thousand. The fact that the exact sources and dates of these figures are not indicated lessens the value of the book. Purists will also object to the collection of thirty pages of "see references" in a secondary alphabet. As always, they would have been considerably more useful if they had been treated as an integral part of the main alphabet.

Despite these puristic complaints, the "Macmillan World Gazetteer" is an attractive addition to a home library and a "must" for the public libraries of the country.

CHILD CARE

"The Encyclopedia of Child Care and Guidance," edited by **Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg** (Doubleday, 1016 pp. \$7.50), is reviewed below by **Harold L. Roth**, assistant director, East Orange [N.J.] Public Library and a father of two.

PEOPLE who have raised their children on the advice found in the pages of Dr. Benjamin Spock's "The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care" (1946) may wonder why it is necessary for another guide to be published paralleling in part the information put forth by Dr. Spock. After a study of "The Encyclopedia of Child Care and Guidance" the reason becomes quite obvious. This is not just a step-by-step guide to handling children. Instead the editor, former director of the Child Study Association of America, and a frequent writer on the problems of raising children, has joined with a prominent Advisory Board to bring out a book which attempts, and quite successfully, to answer the questions "Why do my children act the way they do?" and "What can I do about it?"

This encyclopedia has more than enough information in it to warrant a prominent place on the home reference shelf and in a local library. It represents the latest in the thinking of experts on the best methods of raising children and incorporates that thinking into a 600-page ready reference guide alphabetically arranged. The other third of the book is composed of thirty articles by specialists in the field of Child Care and Guidance including Dr. Spock, Victor D'Amico, Josette Frank, Otto Klineberg, and Margaret Mead. Also included are two lists, one of the agencies in the United States from which more advanced information in particular areas of child care may be obtained, and the other a bibliography of further readings in each area covered.

Articles headed diapers, menstruation, and vomiting are little changed in information from similar articles in other baby books. The great change comes with the inclusion of such matters as rewards, responsibility, popularity, phonograph records, modesty, love, haircuts, and crossing streets.

The child is treated as a social being and all aspects of life which go to make a child a complete person are considered. Family life and the handling of children's fears are analyzed as carefully as are common communicable diseases of childhood.

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