

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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Reference Check-List

WHAT follows is a highly selective but representative check-list of reference books published during the past year.

It includes only a few suggestions of books of general information that will be useful in the home library. An encyclopedia is a basic addition to the home reference shelf that every member of the family will enjoy. Leading examples of the multi-volume encyclopedia are the "Americana," the "Britannica," "Collier's," and "Grolier" for adults, and "The Book of Knowledge," "Compton's," and "World Book" for children. Leading examples of one-volume encyclopedias are the "Columbia," the "Columbia Viking Desk Encyclopedia," and the "Lincoln Library of Essential Information." Each publisher of multi-volume sets publishes an annual year book covering the events of the year in alphabetic subject sequence to keep his work up to date; supplements are issued from time to time to keep the one-volume encyclopedia au courant. Points to bear in mind in buying an encyclopedia are discussed by Evelyn E. Kirkland on page 28.

—EDITH BUSBY.

General Information

INFORMATION PLEASE ALMANAC. 1955. Edited by Dan Goulenpaul. The Macmillan Co. Paperbound, \$1. Clothbound, \$2.

THE POCKET ALMANAC. 1955. Edited by Dr. George Gallup and others. Pocket Books. Paperbound, 50¢.

THE WORLD ALMANAC AND BOOK OF FACTS. 1955. Edited by Harry Hansen. New York World-Telegram. Paperbound, \$1. Clothbound, \$1.85. Three one-volume libraries of useful facts, statistics, and general information issued annually.

BASIC EVERYDAY ENCYCLOPEDIA. Random House. 576 pp. \$1. De luxe edition, \$2.95. A useful, inexpensive home reference book which has basic information in virtually every subject field.

DICTIONARY OF DATES. By C. Arnold-Baker and Anthony Dent. E. P. Dutton & Co. 427 pp. \$4.50. Thirty-six thousand dates covering important world events through World War II in alphabetical arrangement for easy reference. Many subject entries such as battles, earthquakes, dates of birth and death of famous artists, scientists, explorers, etc.

THE FUNK & WAGNALLS BOOK OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. By Lawrence W. Bridge. Funk & Wagnalls. \$3. Designed for both the beginner and the expert, the manual presents the techniques of parliamentary procedure step-by-step, with illustrations and applications of the principles involved. A modern, authoritative guide to the proper conduct of all kinds of meetings, large and small, public and private. Women's clubs, convention delegates, corporation officers, church boards, etc.

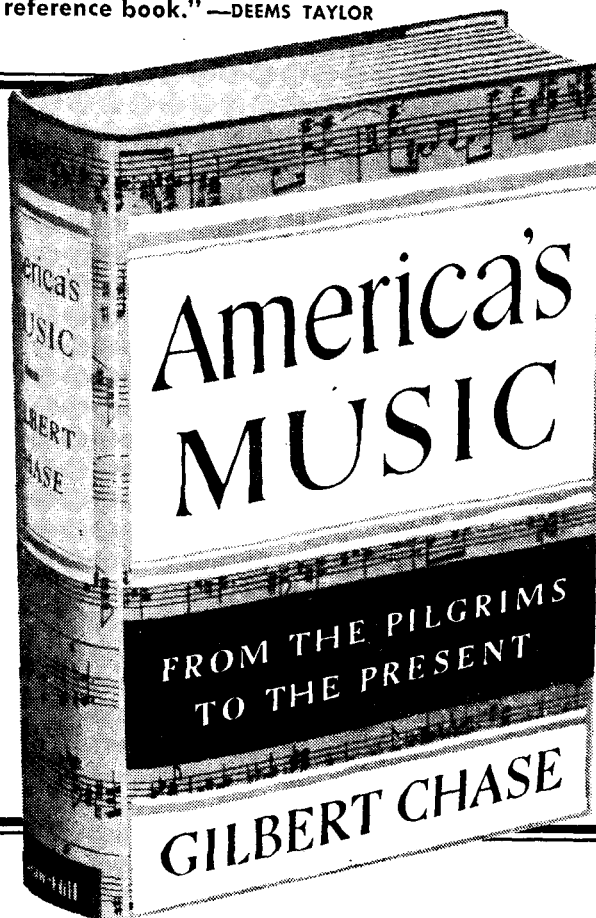
THE MACMILLAN MEDICAL DICTIONARY. Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley. The Macmillan Co. \$6.95. A popular-priced medical dictionary for home reference use with clear definitions of medical, surgical, and psychiatric terms.

THE MACMILLAN WILD FLOWER BOOK. By C. J. Hylander. The Macmillan Co. \$15. A beautifully illustrated book which describes 500 flowering plants. A guide chart to flower families is included as an aid to flower identification.

A TREASURY OF THE WORLD'S GREAT SPEECHES. Selected and edited by Houston Peterson. Simon & Schuster. \$7.50. A comprehensive anthology of famous orations from Moses to Churchill. Each speech is

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