

## BOOKS

WASHINGTON WITCH HUNT. By Bert Andrews. 218 pp. Random House, New York City, 1948. \$2.50.

Physicists and scientists will find this book, by Bert Andrews of the New York Herald Tribune, worth reading if for no other reason than that one of their colleagues—Dr. E. U. Condon—is the subject of one of the five chapters. The important events in this 'case' are adequately described: a summary here would be difficult because the bare facts sound incredibly meaningless and vague (which they are), while the details that provide insight to the situation cannot be presented briefly.

Perhaps the crux of the attacks is the concept of guilt by association, in Dr. Condon's case of alleged association with certain individuals who are suspect because they, in turn, are alleged to have associated with other individuals who are alleged to be sinister. The details have to do with the tactics and procedures used in the attacks over a period of some fifteen months, during which no hearings have been held and no evidence has been presented. The New York Times has pithily summarized the attacks as "punishment by publicity."

The book is worth reading, however, for reasons other than an interest in one individual. It is worth reading because it reveals a significant and dangerous pattern which dismisses our heritage of the rights of the individual and represents a very real and easily underestimated threat to our democracy. If the 'Condon case' were an isolated case one would not be justified in this generalization: but it is not only Dr. Condon, it is not only other physicists and scientists—it is the individual citizen, as Mr. Andrews shows, whose rights are being violated.

That the jeopardy is both real and great at this time is only too evident to those in touch with certain events in Washington and to that growing number of individuals—including a large number of scientists throughout the nation—who have already experienced the marrow-chilling horror of finding themselves outcasts, members of that newly created class of untouchables: those whose loyalty and integrity have been impugned on the basis of charges unknown, evidence unrevealed, and accusers unseen and unheard.

To talk of such events in general terms is to court incredulity, so incredible are these violations of our concepts of democracy and of human dignity. But the extent to which the principles of democracy have been compromised, both in the establishment of policy and in the bland acceptance of that policy, is starkly revealed in Mr. Andrews' book. There is, for example, that incident which galvanized Mr. Andrews' interest in the witch hunt.

On June 23, 1947, ten employees of the State Department were dismissed as "potential security risks." On November 1, 1947, Mr. Andrews was discussing this action with three State Department officials. There was no dis-

cussion of the legal right of the State Department to do what it had done, for that had been granted by Congress. The discussion centered on the "ethics and decency and fairness of dismissing any individual without letting him in on the secret of who accused him of what, and without granting him the right of appeal." One of the officials then summarized the situation as follows: "Why beat around the bush on a matter like this? It is entirely conceivable that any of us in this room could be made the victim of a frame-up, if he had enough enemies in the Department who were out to get him. Yes, such a thing would be perfectly conceivable. And we would not have any more recourse than Mr. Blank, even though we were entirely innocent."

The dilemma confronting us is obvious. On the one hand, the nation fears Communist infiltration and is determined to root out every trace of it. On the other hand, we wish to maintain constitutional democracy and the concomitant rights of the individual. The validity of these fears and of their magnitude and the existence of forces which are utilizing the present situation for other ends—whether extremely radical or reactionary is beside the point—are important problems underlying this dilemma.

The apparent 'practical' solution of the dilemma is the sacrifice of the individual. What this means in terms of human injustice and suffering, of the establishment of an insidious pattern, and of what may only too easily be successive encroachments on human rights, leading to a sham democracy, is largely ignored. The danger that we have embarked upon a sequence of steps in this direction, blindly and blithely aping the totalitarian states, remains unperceived.

There are those who will say that this situation is only a temporary aberration, analogous to the excesses following the first world war. Such an analogy is a dubious comfort, as dangerous as it is weak, for there is anything but a one-to-one correspondence between that period and this. There are those who will suspect the validity or the seriousness of the situation, perhaps because the cry of "Wolf!" has been sounded before or because it is an unwelcome, demanding disturbance in cloistered halls.

To these and to all of us, Mr. Andrews has rendered a valuable service in presenting concrete situations of incredible violations of democratic precepts and mere human decency. Mr. Andrews is a distinguished journalist, and his book is an honest job of reporting three sets of events: the State Department purge of ten employees, the 'Hollywood Trials,' and the attacks on Dr. E. U. Condon. The first reveals the internal procedures of one Government department in dealing with 'suspect' individuals; the second, the procedures of one Congressional committee holding official hearings; the third, the procedures of this committee in 'dealing' with an individual without holding hearings. To these three studies, Mr. Andrews has added chapters on the procedures of the FBI, as enunciated by Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, and on the policies of American Communists, as presented by Mr. William Z. Foster. There is little analysis or synthesis in the book, and Mr. Andrews points to no easy solutions.

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In a sober, journalistic fashion he sets out to report the facts in detail. That array of evidence, testimony, and documents in the end mounts up to an appalling indictment of complacency and ignorance.

Hugh Odishaw

**MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION DESIGN DATA.** By Theodore Moreno. 248 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1948. \$4.00.

**MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS, Vol. 9, MIT Radiation Laboratory Series.** Edited by George L. Ragan. 725 pp. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1948. \$8.50.

The short book by Moreno should be a help to anyone who wants to use transmission lines or wave guides. The novice will find fundamental quantities explained in simple terms, and concrete examples of use of the Smith chart and of impedance matching. The better informed will need the tables covering discontinuities, bends, dielectrics in wave guides, and loss in conductors and dielectrics. A brief chapter on resonators contains useful design data.

The Radiation Laboratory book covers similar material in more detail and seems chiefly valuable in presenting extensive measurements on such elements as discontinuities, transducers, branches, chokes, and switches. There is, however, a good stiff section on the theory and design of microwave filters.

One of three 'fundamental things' concerning waves cited in the first chapter, "the fact that in any electromagnetic wave the electric field and the magnetic field are always orthogonal" just is not so.

J. R. Pierce

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### Books Received

**POWER FROM THE WIND.** By Palmer Cosslett Putnam. 224 pp. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$6.00.

**MONOGRAPHS ON THE PROGRESS OF RESEARCH IN HOLLAND. No. 20, Progress in the Theory of the Physical Properties of Glass.** By J. M. Stevels. 104 pp. Elsevier Publishing Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$2.00.

**REPORT ON THE PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURFACE REACTIONS.** 236 pp. Corrosion Publishing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1948. \$10.00.

**ONE STORY OF RADAR.** By A. P. Rowe. 208 pp. Cambridge University Press, The Macmillan Company, New York City, 1948. \$2.50.

**ANALYTICAL THEORY OF CONTINUED FRACTIONS.** By H. S. Wall. 433 pp. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$6.50.

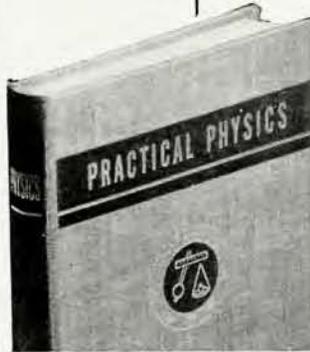
**SCIENCE AND THE MODERN WORLD (Lowell Lectures, 1925), First Pelican Mentor Books Edition.** By Alfred North Whitehead. 212 pp. The New American Library, New York City, 1948. \$0.35.

**THE MANUFACTURE OF GLASS.** By L. M. Angus-Butterworth. 274 pp. Pitman Publishing Corporation, New York City, 1948. \$6.00.

**BATTLEFIELDS OF INDUSTRY—WESTINGHOUSE IN WORLD WAR II.** By David O. Woodbury. 342 pp. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York City, 1948. \$3.50.

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