

in a constructive spirit. Indeed, the footnotes, by the works and labour managers, sometimes re-interpreting the writer's findings, but usually agreeing with them and accepting their practical implications, are some of the most encouraging parts of this book. Has the admirable "Western Electric attitude", which regards differences between the personality and temperament of workers, even in engineering shops, as suggesting scientific problems, spread at last from the United States to England? North of the Trent we await the dawn.

In this book there are no Zolaesque revelations, no 'front-page' stuff. Some newspaper men will be disappointed in this factory, for no men bite dogs. It offers no foundation for a glossy propaganda film or husky radio-postscript. We find just a detailed account of how a bunch of country girls worked, or didn't, in this comfortable, rather pleasant war-factory; how they adapted themselves, or didn't, to the bench and the hostel; how they solved the 'academic' problem of rest-pauses by just taking them when 'so disposed'; how they displayed almost no interest in the War, except to speculate what they would do when it was over, thus puzzling timid-minded 'scientific' thinkers, who regard the War as 'a stimulus', like a spur or a tot of rum. Now, this attitude will annoy people who, having delighted to design or make those lovely machines, cannot understand why girls should fail to play with them as enthusiastically, nine hours a day, for years. Yet why should they delight for ever merely in fiddling with bits and pieces, the function of which (often for necessary reasons) was unknown to them? In peace-time, some of these girls would have been occupied, in sunshine and fresh air, with chickens, calves, even with their children. It is not recorded that they had been guided, by tests and psychological interviews, to different jobs, with some respect paid to their idiosyncrasies, as they would have been had they joined the Forces. Nor do we read of courses arranged by an Army Bureau of Current Affairs, or discussions in the British Way and Purpose. Yet incentive and motive are complex affairs, not easily to be packed into a pay-envelope.

The physical circumstances of the work seem to have been admirable. Though hours were long, the work was easy. There was good food, at which the amount of grumbling seems inversely related to the workers' degree of education and sophistication. Though some girls disliked being billeted upon inhospitable landladies, others were installed in an excellent hostel. But—and for the social psychologist this is perhaps the most interesting fact—in order that they might perform, as often as possible, a series of (to them) almost meaningless actions, everything else was done for them. They had no part nor lot in worries, about food-rations or shopping; sometimes on returning home they found that their family had ceased to consult them even about important matters like taking a lodger. When the day's work was over, often they did nothing but have supper and go to bed. They seldom listened to the radio, or read a newspaper, and when an illustrated daily paper came their way, they thumbed it listlessly, chattering about astrology, fashions and dress coupons. When they gossiped it was usually not about others in the factory but about people at the real place: home. They regarded the War as something to be endured, like a very heavy shower of rain, which for some inscrutable reason has not stopped, cannot go on for ever and cannot be affected

by their efforts. Even grumbles were seldom directed towards anyone who could remedy the fault.

Yet it should be remembered that for them there were no smart uniforms, presumably no badge to show that they were doing important war work, no glamour, no public parades. The town into which they were herded did not want them, showing this positively and negatively; for example, when the firm suggested the establishment of a British Restaurant there was no effective local co-operation. For their sisters, the Armed Forces may have provided many things of which these workers were deprived, including a stimulation of the intellect and discussion of their future as citizens and voters. In the life of these young workers, there is a background of aimlessness, irresponsibility and boredom; all regarded as inevitable. This study, in conjunction with other field-work, emphasizes the decline in positive citizenship among such young people. The *laissez-faire* of leisure and its dangerous separation from work are immediately and primarily responsible for this. Here, under its modern orchestration, the social psychologist's ear discerns an old, mournful tune.

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RECOGNITION OF THE STARS

Star Recognition

By Ft.-Lieut. Francis Chichester. Pp. 20+3 charts. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1943.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book supplies a lot of useful information for those engaged in air-navigation star-work, and follows the procedure adopted in the "Air Almanac", dividing the stars into three Lots: Lot 1 contains 22 main stars which are printed in capitals; the 13 stars in Lot 2 are in italics, and Lot 3 contains 15 stars considered third class for air navigation; but Benetnaseh and Polaris are now included among the 24 main air navigation stars, Polaris, though only second magnitude, being considered much more valuable to the navigator than any other stars. Very full directions are supplied for the identification of the stars in various quarters of the heavens, and some space is also devoted to a description of the appearances of the navigational planets, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, and to the method for recognizing them. On a Mercator's projection 390 stars are charted, and these include all the first-magnitude stars, nearly all the second-magnitude stars, 247 third-magnitude stars, and 8 fourth-magnitude stars (Polaris cannot be shown on a Mercator's projection and hence does not appear on the chart). A duplicate projection on which the stars are not named provides a useful test for the identification of stars—first-magnitude especially—and will show the student his weakness in star recognition.

Identification of the stars by means of the Mercator star chart and also by computed declination and sidereal hour angle is described, and an example of the application of the former method is given. At the end of the work there is a "Catalogue of First Magnitude Stars, given in Order of their S.H.A., with their Mean Positions for January 1943 in Terms of Dec., S.H.A., and R.A., with Annual Variations for the Middle of the Year".

This is a most useful book for air navigators. With the star charts, which fold up, it is enclosed in a glazed linen folder.