

utilization of the results of scientific research, including some discussion of the cost of innovation and of the varying scale of research in industry. They review the methods used by Governments of different countries to encourage the utilization of new knowledge by industry, including economic methods, but in spite of a strong emphasis on the contribution which research in the social or human sciences might offer they present little in the way of fresh ideas. Finally, in the last two chapters they argue that diplomacy needs to pay much more attention to the possibilities which science has put into the hands of Governments as well as to the international organization of science, and, stress, like S. Dedijer in his recent paper on the difference between the developed and the developing countries in regard to scientific research, that the best hope of the future may lie in the emergence of a functional civilization.

The emphasis on the contribution of social research is noteworthy, and, while the book contributes little that is new to a topical discussion, the authors show that French thought on the subject is closely in line with that of many scientists in Britain.

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SOCIOLOGY—SCIENCE OR NON-SCIENCE?

The Origins of Scientific Sociology

By John Madge. Pp. 600. (London: Tavistock Publications (1959), Ltd., 1963.) 63s. net.

"SOCIOLOGY today is a quite respectable occupation in most countries and in the United States it is a thriving industry"; thus John Madge ends this large volume on *The Origins of Scientific Sociology*, which examines in detail many major works of empirical sociology from the 1890's to the 1950's. It is interesting to note that another 'new' social science, economics, originated at least three hundred years earlier, as the recent publication of *The Origins of Scientific Economics, English Economic Thought 1660-1776*, by William Letwin, reminds us.

If one judges respectability by the flood of new university chairs which have been created (more than a dozen in the past twelve months), sociology will soon be a thriving industry, at least academically, in Great Britain. Some readers of *Nature* may query if it is a subject worthy of academic notice at all in Britain; and indeed John Madge inserts a foreword for his British readers regretting his inability to include a British work as the main subject of at least one of his chapters, but he does not feel able to do so, for "We do not seem over here to have achieved the same integration of empirical theory, of sophisticated techniques of inquiry, and of the capacity to throw light on practical sociological problems as has been found elsewhere". Few, I think, would entirely disagree with this statement of the shortcomings of British sociology, but there is some good British sociology, and reference in such a large work might well have been made to it. Twenty-six years ago *Political Arithmetic*, edited by Lancelot Hogben, in 1938, documented a brilliant attempt to create a study of social biology in the London School of Economics over the period 1932-38. Some of the fruits of this empirical sociology can be seen to-day in, for example, *Social Mobility in Britain*, by David V. Glass, 1954, which was dedicated to Lancelot Hogben and the author of which was one of this early research team. In the fields of rural and industrial sociology reference might have been made to the work of the Manchester School, although it is only fair to add that this work comes mainly at the end of the author's period. Much other research could be cited, but in fact John Madge has only one chapter devoted to work done outside the United States.

It is, of course, true that the principal work in sociology has been done in the United States, and one reason for this comparative failure of sociology in Britain has been a lack of university departments and staff, a resulting shortage of trained research workers, and a complete dearth of large 'handouts' from foundations and charitable institutions which have made possible the detailed and extended American studies on which this work is mainly based. Whether the occupants of the many new university chairs will succeed in similar path-breaking researches or whether they will relapse into vague theorizing on doubtful statistics about subjects which most scientists would regard as trivial remains to be seen, but John Madge's foreword is, perhaps, not likely to encourage the large-scale munificence in British sociology which is needed.

He has, however, supplied a first-class text for student teaching; perhaps too good a text, for his careful and considerate analyses may persuade many weaker students that the original texts contain little more than the long summaries given here. In fact, students will find that the attention which John Madge has given to the texts makes his own volume required reading.

After a statement of the general theme twelve chapters are devoted to a careful analysis of classic social studies. The first work, and the only work not undertaken in the United States which he includes, is Durkheim's *Suicide*, "the work in which he pioneered the application of statistical methods to sociological issues". There is then a painstaking analysis of the different kinds of suicide propounded by Durkheim and an analysis of Durkheim's concepts and methods. Although John Madge is principally concerned with concepts and methods there is here, as elsewhere, reference to the principal findings of the work in question, so that the student is not left with the rather arid feeling of a long gestation which did not bear fruit at the end.

Subsequent chapters are treated in the same way and deal with relevant scientific texts, such as *Peasants and Workers (The Polish Peasant in Europe and America)*, by William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, or larger fields, such as *The Chicago School Around 1930*, a study of the entire output of the Chicago School at the end of the 1920's and early 1930's. The selection of texts is good, and ranges from Gunnar Myrdal's *An American Dilemma* to Kinsey's books on sexual behaviour in the human male and female, studying industrial sociology (*Management and the Worker*, by Roethlisberger and Dickson), *The American Soldier*, the human roots of fascism (*The Authoritarian Personality*, by Adorno and others), and the group dynamics of a new community (*Changing Attitudes through Social Contact*, by Festinger and Kelley), and other important works *en route*. Although other works might, of course, have been chosen I doubt if anyone could quarrel with the selection given here, for they are all important, if fairly obvious, choices.

Madge ends with a final chapter on "The Lessons", which includes a plea for a return to the spirit of social enquiry, as distinct from idle curiosity, which accompanied the founding of the Royal Society three hundred years ago. The tercentenary celebration of the publication of John Graunt's *Bills of Mortality*, which was held last year, would seem to indicate that some part of the Royal Society's activities may be devoted to social enquiry one day soon.

"The theme of the book is a simple one. It is that the discipline of sociology is at last growing up and is within reach of attaining the status of a science". So Madge begins on p. 1 and we must conclude that he illustrates this theme admirably. But one would like to see him shortly write Volume 2 to bring the story up to date, and in this second volume give greater emphasis to the admittedly small but significant writings of sociologists in Britain. At the present rate of output it will not be possible, or necessary, to cover sixty years' research in one volume.

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