

concepts of the plant community. These problems are scarcely mentioned and one looks in vain in the extensive bibliography for many of the names of those who have figured in discussion of them. Tansley, Clements and Curtis receive incidental mention in this connexion but without indication of the fundamental differences between their points of view; others, for example Gleason and Ramensky, are not mentioned at all. Classification is likewise treated rather superficially. The author rightly emphasizes that only two types of features are available as criteria in the classification of vegetation (as opposed to classification of sites)—structure and floristic composition—but there is little discussion of what aspects of the floristic composition should receive most weight and there is no consideration at all of the development of numerical techniques that has been such a prominent feature of phytosociology in the past decade.

The third section of the book deals with "Technical Aspects", covering such questions as choice of scale, use of aerial photographs, choice of colour and symbol, the lay-out of maps and accompanying texts, and so on. This section raises few points of fundamental controversy (though many will consider the relegation of "Boundaries and Transitions" to a technical aspect somewhat surprising). These technical aspects are clearly and interestingly presented and treated in a well-balanced manner.

The fourth, and longest, section deals with the practice of mapping in various conditions and according to various schools. This account will be invaluable both to those considering possible methods to use in vegetation mapping and to those concerned to make use of vegetation maps emanating from different schools.

The final section is concerned with "Application of Vegetation Maps". In addition to the use of vegetation maps as tools in ecological and geographical research, examples, actual or hypothetical, are given of their use as climatic records, in pedology and geology, agriculture, forestry, land management and planning, education, for commercial engineering and fiscal interests, and in relation to military activities. This is a most impressive list. If only a small proportion of the suggested potential uses is realized, there is indeed a strong case for extensive allocation of resources to vegetation mapping.

A bibliography of some 600 references is particularly valuable for its coverage of literature in French and German. There are few references after 1963.

In spite of the reservations indicated here, this is a valuable and timely book, although few will go all the way with the author in assigning a central role in the understanding of vegetation to vegetation mapping. The author is an enthusiast for his subject and his enthusiasm makes his book a pleasure to read, even when we may disagree with what he has to say. It is written in an easy and informal style and well produced, though the price, by European standards, seems rather high.

P. GREIG-SMITH

## PARENTS ARE DIFFERENT

### Influences on Parent Behavior

By Lois Meek Stolz. (Stanford Studies in Psychology.) Pp. viii + 355. (London: Tavistock Publications, Ltd., 1967.) 65s. net.

It is well accepted that parents, even when social variables such as religion or social class are controlled, will vary considerably in their child-rearing behaviour. The author of this lengthy book is concerned to isolate some of the factors—either conscious or easily recalled since unconscious ones are inaccessible by social research—which may influence them.

Repeated interviews were carried out with both parents in thirty-nine families. Most fathers were interviewed by

men and most mothers by women. Four main groups of influences were described: (1) values, that is goals; (2) beliefs, that is (a) instrumental (children obey their fathers because they respect them), or (b) descriptive (girls seem to like horses); (3) others—(a) past and present experiences, (b) communications, mass and personal, and (c) behavioural settings.

It might have been better, in view of the original assumption that families vary in spite of social homogeneity, to have selected a group who were similar in all major respects. Instead the author took pains to keep the group as disparate as she could. There are some suggestive findings here, but the work is based on too slight information to prove ultimately reliable. There is a great overlap of influences described which can only be assigned weighted importance with a much more selective approach and with a larger sample. The book is too long for easy reading and would benefit by good cutting and editing.

ANNETTE LAWSON

## HANDBOOK REVISED

### Handbook of Chemistry and Physics

A Ready-reference Book of Chemical and Physical Data. Editor-in-chief, Robert C. Weast. Forty-eighth edition. (Cleveland, Ohio: The Chemical Rubber Co.; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1967.) 170s.

THE *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* has progressed a long way since its first appearance as a pocket edition in 1913. Now in the 48th version, the handbook has gained so many tables over the years that it might be more appropriately labelled "satchel sized", but it nevertheless remains true to its description of a "ready reference book of chemical and physical data".

Information is classed into one of six sections, which cover mathematical tables, elements and inorganic compounds, organic compounds, general chemical constants, general physical constants and miscellaneous. Nearly 2,000 pages provide more than 550 tables, seventeen of them new, and more than eleven revised. Information that has been included for the first time covers absolute viscosity of liquid sodium and potassium, constants for satellite geodesy, factors for conversion of  $\log_{10}$  to  $RT \log_e X$ , infrared correlation, far infrared vibrational frequency correlation and characteristic frequencies between 700–300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . New charts also give characteristic nuclear magnetic resonance spectral positions for hydrogen in organic molecules, ionization constants for deuterium oxide from 10° C to 50° C, heats of combustion, density and composition of sulphuric acid, thermal conductivity of certain metals, liquids and gases and solubility products. There is a supplementary table of diamagnetic susceptibilities of organic compounds, and a table, of particular interest to bearded scientists perhaps, of mechanical and physical properties of whiskers.

The rate at which scientific knowledge increases these days must give the editors of a handbook like this rather a headache, for now it must be more a question of what to leave out than what to put in, if the book is to remain a manageable size. It has been thought impossible to produce one volume to cater for the biological as well as the physical sciences, but although concentrating on the physical sciences the editors have been conscious of the growing interdisciplinary attitude in science, and have included tables that extend beyond the physical field. The mathematical section has been growing steadily over the years to keep pace with the growing complexity of modern chemistry and physics, largely at the suggestion of users of the handbook. A large editorial board is involved in its production, with Robert C. Weast as editor-in-chief, so the handbook ends up full of information for the scientists, by the scientists, giving a vast quantity for the money.

ELISABETH LEWIS