

groups of people within the city to obtain transportation, cruelly worsening the plight of the great majority of inhabitants in developing-world cities for whom suburbia has never been within reach? It will be of more than passing interest to see whether urban area continues in all parts of the world to expand faster than population. Surely, one of the needs brought out in this book is to develop comparable definitions of the geographic and demographic dimensions employed in calculating population densities—so that useful comparisons can be made over time and between different localities.

The vision of Ecumenopolis, resting on small-scale communities linked at the global dimension, calls for planned expansion of Man's use of land rather than wasteful urban sprawl. Few have had such opportunities in planning new cities in the developing world as Doxiadis, and with this valuable experience he and his colleague, J. G. Papaioannou 'have opened an analytical door on the remote future of human settlements'. Arnold Toynbee (*Cities of Destiny*, p. 275) once compared Doxiadis to a 'benevolent technician who has fitted a telescopic sight to a racing motorist's car. The technician hopes that the speeder will make use of this safety device now that he has been equipped with it. If he neglects it, he is likely, before long, to wreck his car and break his own neck.'

This book arms the reader with a clear view of the contemporary scene, a disturbing look at sign-posts and choices down the road, and a vision of the distant goal. A number of turning points are indicated which deserve attention. It is a book of hope, and of courage: 'It is simply cowardice to avoid the obligation to predict because of a fear that something unpredictable might happen'.

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**Environmental Education**, Edited by JAMES A. SWAN & WILLIAM B. STAPP. Halsted Press Division of John Wiley & Sons, New York, London, Sydney, Toronto: 349 pp., numerous figures and tables, 23.4 × 15.8 × 2.5 cm, £8.00, 1974.

Sixteen authors (including the two Editors), all of whom have considerable experience in the educational field in the United States, have joined hands in presenting in this book their own individual experiences and thoughts on various pedagogic approaches to certain aspects of Man's environment.

The book consists of 15 chapters, the first four of which are written by the Editors with the objective of defining the aims of environmental education in its proper historical setting, and of presenting an instructional programmed approach that is destined to help the learner to understand and appreciate the importance of relating ecological, economic, social, technological, and political, information in solving present or future environmental problems. In the other 11 chapters the reader is exposed to various pedagogic approaches and practical examples of how environmental education can be improved within the current educational-political philosophy, and how it can be evaluated—with an exposure of weaknesses and suggestions for new directions of work.

In perusing the contents of this book, one may feel that there is little articulation between the various chapters. However, one will not fail to note a common theme permeating the whole book—namely, a serious concern for the environment and an urgent appeal to design sound instructional programmes, for both children and adults,

aiming at the conservation of a viable environment. As mentioned by the Editors, the main purpose of the book is to expose educationists to a number of 'new' ideas, and to environmental education strategies that have been evolving since the United States' Earth Day. That these eye-opening items involve already an extensive literature can be noted from the often substantial lists of references—most of which were written and published in the 'seventies—given at the end of all but two of the chapters. The references are, however, almost exclusively American except in the case of the chapter on 'Improvised Play Areas'—which is both a pity and bears its message.

This book will certainly benefit all those engaged in any aspect of environmental education, as they will find in it a rich digest of the experience and thoughts of 16 often eminent educationists and behavioural scientists. The reader will also appreciate the short *curriculum vitae* of each author that is given at the beginning of each chapter. Environmentalists will particularly appreciate this book for its promotional impact in arousing the interest of the reader in this vital subject of environmental education on which, in the last analysis, will depend the outcome of the soul-searching question of whether Man can attain harmony with himself, his fellow men, and his environment—or else fail, and face the deluge!

M.A.F.

**The Future of Technological Civilization**, by VICTOR FERKISS. George Braziller, 1 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016: 369 pp., 24 × 17 × 3.5 cm, US\$ 12.50, 1974.

At a recent conference in Rome, a leading Italian environmentalist summed up his experiences by declaring that 'ecology is politics'\*. Few who have lived through the social conflict arising from an effort to protect the environment from the impact of a major industrial project would deny the force of this simple statement. Yet we know that the existing political philosophies, whether of liberalism or socialism, capitalism or communism, are at best irrelevant to the issue of the protection of the natural environment, or at worst they actually encourage its rape.

If 'ecology is politics', then what is the politics of ecology? It is precisely this question which Victor Ferkiss, Professor of Government at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., sets out to answer in his latest book, with the misleading title quoted above. Professor Ferkiss gives a damning exposition of the inherent inability of the existing political philosophies to deal with the ecological crisis which inevitably arises from our present technological civilization. The solution which he proposes is 'Ecological Humanism'—a political philosophy which places at its centre the development of human well-being through Man's interaction with his environment.

In his description of the short-comings of existing political systems, Ferkiss is impressive, to the extent that his proposed guide for the future of 'Homo Ecologicus' is perhaps an anticlimax. However, he marks this area of political ecology clearly and then proceeds to enrich our understanding of it. This is a book which is a *must* for all who care about the future of Man and of Nature, and particularly for those who want to help ensure that there is indeed a future for both.

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\* He ought to have said 'human ecology...' but even then would have made real ecologists squirm: that, however, is no derogation of the pungent remarks of our distinguished reviewer.—Ed.