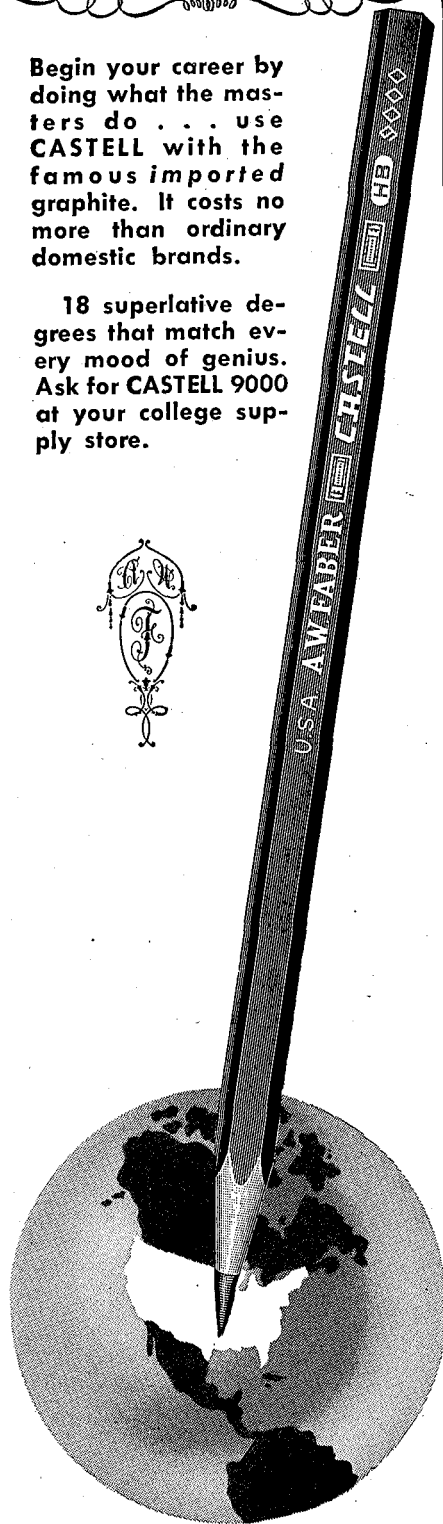


**USE THE
WORLD'S BEST
at
NO EXTRA COST**

Begin your career by doing what the masters do . . . use **CASTELL** with the famous imported graphite. It costs no more than ordinary domestic brands.

18 superlative degrees that match every mood of genius. Ask for **CASTELL 9000** at your college supply store.



AW FABER-CASTELL
PENCIL COMPANY INC., NEWARK 4, N.J.

BOOKS

THE HELL BOMB

by William L. Laurence
Alfred A. Knopf

\$2.75

WILLIAM L. LAURENCE is science news reporter for the *New York Times*, a journalistic expert on atomic energy, and the only newspaper man who was privileged to be present when the first atomic bomb was set off at Alamogordo. In this book he has gathered all the published, and publishable, information about the hydrogen bomb and come to some "technical conclusions reached by deduction based on these published facts and theory, for which I assume the sole responsibility."

Mr. Laurence comes close to his goal of making this subject understandable to the layman as long as he is describing the makeup of the hydrogen bomb, or discussing the problems that must be faced in its construction and possible detonation, or when he is presenting a primer of atomic energy—as he does in the last chapter of the book. But his conclusions are something else again.

Mr. Laurence, for instance, makes quite a case for the hydrogen bomb as a military weapon—though most scientists who are fully informed on the bomb have been trying to show how and why it is a weapon whose effectiveness has been grossly exaggerated, and one on which we can place little reliance for the future. Mr. Laurence believes that "the advent of the H Bomb constitutes the greatest threat to the survival of the human race since the black death"—though scientists have been trying to explain that this is a remote possibility rather than a probability.

As Mr. Laurence says, of course, he assumes sole responsibility for these conclusions. He is, in fact, alone in many of them; few fully-informed scientists would agree with him. Unfortunately, few of the laymen who read his book will be well-enough informed to know that.

MATHEMATICS, QUEEN AND SERVANT OF SCIENCE

by Eric Temple Bell
McGraw-Hill, New York

\$5

THIS IS A REVISION and amplification of two popular accounts of mathematics written by Dr. Bell in 1931 (*The Queen of the Sciences*) and 1937 (*The Handmaiden of the Sciences*).

In an introduction, Dr. Bell, Professor of Mathematics at the California Institute, explains that his book is not intended to be a substitute for a textbook, or a treatise on any subject in either pure or applied mathematics, but merely an attempt to explain to the interested layman something of the spirit of modern mathematics.

By describing some of the developments in both pure and applied mathematics in the last century Dr. Bell's new book provides a stimulating extension course for anyone who has been introduced to antique mathematics in secondary school and who still retains some interest in what happened after that.

THE HUMAN USE OF HUMAN BEINGS

by Norbert Wiener

Houghton Mifflin, Boston \$3.00

*Reviewed by Hunter Mead
Professor of Philosophy
and Psychology*

THIS IS WHAT might be called an inevitable book. After arousing such interest with his earlier volume on cybernetics, it was to be expected that Norbert Wiener would follow through with a more popular, less theoretical book on the applications of the new cybernetic science to human affairs. It was also probably inevitable that this book should contain much that has little to do with the theory of communication and control, but instead reveals the wide range of Dr. Wiener's social awareness.

Perhaps a third of the book can be classed as applied cybernetics. Another third can be labeled "the social implications of contemporary technology in general." But the remainder can hardly be called anything more than "Wiener's social and political views."

The general reader will probably find these three sections equally interesting. The author's ability to move with ease from a discussion of the apparent parallel between certain types of feedback phenomena in machines and Parkinson's disease in man, to a comparison between "the Church" and the Communist Party is impressive—and some of Wiener's other jumps are even wider. But unlike many scientists who range outside their field, this one seldom appears naive or dogmatic in his extra-scientific pronouncements. And certainly he is never dull!

This is, in sum, a stimulating and interest-holding book.