Books

India and the West
by Barbara Ward
W. W. Norton & Co. ........... $4.50

Miss Ward's new book includes the material that made up her Haynes Foundation Lecture Series at Caltech in February, 1960. Her research on the problems of India has been conducted on a Carnegie Fellowship on Economic Assistance.

Subtitled "Pattern for a Common Policy," Miss Ward's book first considers the development of the modern economy in the West:

"As Western society grappled with the problems and upheavals of the new economics," says Miss Ward, "it produced two broad versions of modernization; some states achieved their transformation within the framework of decentralized power and free institutions; others were driven by the stress of change to maintain or lapse into dictatorial rule. Among these latter communities, Communism has provided the basis for the most thorough and enduring experiments in tyranny."

Today, India is undergoing the profound process of economic change and development which began in the West about 200 years ago. The greater part of her book is concerned with this Indian experiment, which, as Miss Ward says, belongs "in the mainstream of three great contemporary revolutions — the development of the mixed economy and of welfare-capitalism in the West, the counter-revolution of Communist ideology and State capitalism in Russia and China, and the unavoidable duel between these two revolutions for influence in the excolonial and uncommitted world."

It is Miss Ward's thesis that "India's experiment of economic growth within the framework of political freedom can be decisive for the whole future of mankind." The success of this experiment, she maintains, would show the developing countries of the world that economic growth can be attained by democratic means, and she proposes a plan whereby the West could guarantee the success of the Indian — and similar — experiments.

Barbara Ward (Lady Jackson) is a British economist who now makes her home in Ghana, where her husband, Sir Robert Jackson, is chairman of the Development Commission. She is assistant editor of The Economist, and is also the author of such other books as The West at Bay, Policy for the West, Faith and Freedom, and Interplay of East and West.

Great American Scientists
by the Editors of Fortune
Prentice-Hall, Inc. ................ $3.50

When the editors of Fortune decided last year to find out who were America's greatest living scientists, the results of their search appeared in a series of four articles, which make up this book.

Fortune came up with a list of 40 great scientists — 11 physicists, 11 biologists, 10 chemists, and 8 astronomers. It is of particular interest here that 7 of the 40 men are at Caltech — two physicists (Richard P. Feynman and Murray Gell-Mann); three biologists (George W. Beadle, Max Delbruck, Alfred H. Sturtevant); one chemist (Linus Pauling); and one astrophysicist (Jesse L. Greenstein).

Fortune has attempted to trace, though brief biographies of these 40 men, "the unfolding and maturing of American science . . . to outline the principal advances in . . . physics, chemistry, astronomy, and biology . . . over the last four decades."

This is a large order, but Fortune handles it neatly and in the best popular style. (In fact, in book form — when it is removed from the awesome, outsized, executive-office format of Fortune magazine — the same material seems brighter, sharper, and even shorter.) Certainly, the book comes close to the purpose set forth by the editors in a prefatory note:

"This book will have achieved its goal if readers who may be embarrassed by their ignorance of science discover in it some sense of the grandeur of the scientific enterprise and why it has proved irresistible to some of the world's finest minds for the last three hundred and fifty years."