

Books . . . continued

his book is the result of the cultural shock he experienced here, trying to cope with the complicated American female after years of carefree sex in his native Greece. Part true confession, part advice to the lovelorn, *Sex American Style* is by turns exasperating, perceptive, ingenuous, and ingenious.

WIND-CATCHERS

American Windmills of Yesterday and Tomorrow

by *Volta Torrey*

The Stephen Greene Press \$12.95

The meat of Torrey's book is the story of past windmill progress in America and its projection into the future of windmills as an energy source. Torrey, who feels that "the windmills built thus far may be mere points of reference from which much better ways of 'mining' the atmosphere for energy will soon be discovered," credits Caltech's Ernest E. Sechler and Homer J. Stewart with "grasping such technological nettles" by setting up a course that includes material on windmills (Ae 107, Case Studies in Engineering).

Torrey describes dozens of American windmills, giving details of their design, specifications, and capabilities, and he illustrates most of them with photographs and drawings. Whatever the future of the windmill as an answer to the energy problem, *Wind-Catchers* should dispel the image of the device as merely a picturesque part of the Dutch landscape or a target for Don Quixote.

Torrey has been a newspaper reporter, magazine writer, and editor of *Popular Science*. For the last 20 years he has concentrated on science writing.

McGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS

McGraw-Hill Book

Company \$39.50

Containing almost 100,000 definitions, this dictionary is a major compendium of the vocabulary of science

and technology. Since experts in the various fields undoubtedly selected the terms to be included, and wrote or reviewed the definitions, the book can be approached with some confidence by the amateur. Amateur is, of course, a term that applies to all of us in at least some of the 100 fields into which these definitions are divided.

For nonscientifically trained amateurs, in addition to the definitions themselves the reference material in the Appendix — lists of symbols, abbreviations, and conversion tables, for example — is particularly useful. So is the cross-referencing of official abbreviations both at the end of the definitions and alphabetically in the main listing.

Unfortunately, as in most scientific dictionaries, pronunciation is not given. The editors say that this was for reasons of economy, but it is an economy that is costly to the very people who could find the dictionary most useful. It leaves students, secretaries, lab workers, and even some editors and writers dependent on learning how to pronounce many words only by hearing them from others — who may or may not say (not to mention spell) them correctly. "Lipid" or "spectroscopy" may be no cause for panic, but how about "Aspidorhynchidae" or "zygnemataceae"?

Letters

A Few Last Words

San Diego

Talking about Goldwynisms, particularly "the atom bomb — that's dynamite!" (John H. Knowles, "Clarity of Thought and Higher Education," *E&S*, October-November 1976), Herman Wouk, of all people, was guilty of this Goldwynism in his talk at CIT on March 6, 1973. Wouk referred to atomic explosive as "this horrible dynamite" ("Science — at the Leading Edge of Hope," *E&S*, March-April 1973).

NAOMI KASHIWABARA, BS'49

Beverly Hills

Dear Dr. Knowles:

I am reading with great satisfaction the report of the address you gave on Caltech's 82nd Commencement last June, (*E&S*, October-November) and regret that I did not have the opportunity to collaborate with you in its preparation to the extent of testing your interest in a word that I have coined, and which might have been used by you to bring your address to a conclusion.

I conceived the word as descriptive of the final stage of every possible course of events or program or period of time, or, for that matter, culmination of anything under the sun.

One component of the word had already reached an impressive level of connotation in the form "finalize," but it needed a suffix to obviate such odious expressions as "like I mean" and "like I mean, finalize, ya know."

How much simpler and more "meaningful" to say

FINALIZEWISE!

Now I shall set about reading the rest of your address.

RODD KELSEY

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