

Neal is more interested in the trees than the forest—particularly British trees.

It is highly doubtful that these works will be of any value to librarians in this country. Some of Thompson is acceptable as an introduction to librarianship for the neophyte. For others, the most one could do is to acquaint one's self with some general attitudes of British librarians toward a number of British library problems.—*Gustave A. Harter, University of Florida.*

Physical Sciences. The Royal Institution, Library of Science (being the Friday Evening Discourses in Physical Sciences held at the Royal Institution: 1851-1939). Ed. by William Lawrence Bragg and George Porter. Barking, Essex, England: Elsevier Publishing Co., Ltd. 1970. 10v., illustrated. £63.

Visualize a crisp winter evening in 1860, a warm room filled with the sweet aroma of pipes and cigars, and several men discussing the evening's agenda. On this particular evening, one of the speakers is John Tyndall who is to speak on "The Influence of Magnetic Force on the Electric Charge." Sir Tyndall's discourse is only one of several that will be presented for discussion this evening, and is, as are many of the discourses, an illustrated lecture. You can place yourself in this room by reading a report of Tyndall's discourse plus those of Faraday, Brodie, Maxwell, Spottiswodde, Kelvin, Rayleigh, Rutherford, Heilbron, and many others, which are in the ten-volume work, *Physical Sciences*.

The discourses cover physics and chemistry and are either in the form of a descriptive abstract or in the complete text. The eighty-nine years covered encompass a span of time which saw a change from classical physics to new physics and the emergence of the basic concepts of structural organic chemistry and valency. "This series of Discourses therefore represents a cross section of the growth of physics and chemistry in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century and represents a great turning point in the history of the physical sciences."

The ten volumes are arranged in chronological order with a table of contents in each volume. The lack of a general index does prevent the scholar from locating a particular essay when he is not sure of the exact date. Three additional series are now in preparation covering Astronomy, Earth Sciences, and Biological Science. After publication of these, further discourses will be published in four series covering Medical Sciences, Social Sciences, Applied Sciences, and History and Philosophy of Science.

For the history of science scholars, this collection of "Friday Evening Discourses" should prove to be a valuable source of information. It is unfortunate that the fifty years prior to 1851 had no regular publication of accounts or abstracts of presented lectures to be preserved in the manner that Sir William Bragg has done so well.—*H. Robert Malinowsky, University of Kansas.*

Tolkien Criticism. An Annotated Checklist (The Serif Series, no. 11). By Richard C. West. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1970. 73p. \$4.25.

Richard West compiles the writings and criticism of J. R. R. Tolkien, whose meteoric rise in popularity in this country followed the paperback reprinting of his trilogy, *Lord of the Rings*, in 1965. *Tolkien Criticism* aptly serves as a chronicle of the Tolkien phenomenon, and the author has chosen a fitting time to release his bibliography—late enough to capture important recent criticism of Tolkien's works, but prompt enough to provide the scholar and Tolkien enthusiast with a most welcome symposium when interest in this English author is running high.

Interest in J. R. R. Tolkien extends far beyond the characters and plot of the *Rings* trilogy, but there is little doubt that the trilogy has become the focal point for serious discussion of the man and his works. The American paperback reprinting of *Lord of the Rings*, by Ace and Ballantine in 1965, ten years after its original publication, caught the college campuses in the right mood for a whopping good tale of high adventure, set in a colorful fairyland