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already known situation in the past to warrant its characterization as a collective. This previous situation, however, which serves as a standard of comparison, *must* have been ascertained as collective on the basis of actual observation and not on the basis of general conclusions, only because no bridge leads from the concept of a strict causal law to the concept of a collective.

In the two last lectures, Professor Misses shows in what way his concept of probability is applicable in the general theory of statistics and in statistical physics.

HANS NEISSER

University of Pennsylvania

CROXTON, FREDERICK E., and DUDLEY J. COWDEN. *Applied General Statistics*. Pp. xviii, 944, xiii. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1939. \$4.00.

This is a comprehensive text not only with respect to the scope of methods covered but also with respect to the number of social-science fields from which illustrations are drawn. It is a textbook on method, although here and there some statistical theory is introduced. Each topic is handled with exceptional thoroughness and with a welcome clarity. The authors exhibit great ingenuity in their numerous teaching devices that should prove helpful to student and teacher alike. Notable in this respect are their explanations of logarithmic charts, the difference method of interpolating for the mode, the terms of the binomial expansion, and the graphs of the χ^2 distribution for $n=1, n=5, n=9$, and $n=17$.

After a thorough treatment of the methods of gathering and the tabular and graphic presentation of data, the book proceeds to the study of frequency distributions. Starting with a table of grades arranged at random, a frequency distribution is formed in such a way as to illustrate problems and advantages relating to the use of class intervals. Other illustrations of frequency distributions also are given. On pages 177 and 179, however, correlation curves are erroneously labeled as frequency curves. In the discussion of averages and dispersion, a good collection of illustrative material is used. The text is better than most in giving illustrations of

the H.M. and G.M. Interesting examples of leptokurtic and platykurtic frequency distributions are included.

In addition to fitting a normal curve, a method is presented for fitting a logarithmic frequency curve and a moderately skewed curve by using the Graph-Charlier formula. The study of reliability and significance of statistical measures includes illustrations of the uses of χ^2 the F-distribution, students' distribution and analysis of variance. Thus adequate attention is given to the problems of small samples.

On time-series analysis the book is especially good, though regrettably insufficient space is given to the use of orthogonal polynomials. This section includes a brief presentation of the National Bureau of Economic Research methods of cycle analysis.

In the last third of the book, simple, nonlinear, multiple, and partial correlation are presented in a teachable manner.

Useful tables for statisticians are included in the appendices, which also contain a table of six-place logarithms.

A mathematical appendix uses simplified (but for that reason sometimes long) derivations of a large number of formulae including proof that $\sigma_{\bar{x}} = \frac{\sigma_p}{\sqrt{N}}$.

JAMES G. SMITH
Princeton University

BROOKS, ROBERT C. (Ed.). *Bryce's "American Commonwealth" Fiftieth Anniversary*. Pp. xii, 245. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1939. \$2.50.

This volume is the outgrowth of an evening during the 1938 meeting of the American Political Science Association, when leading political scientists who had known Bryce before his death in 1922 carried their audience through both sober and comic sidights on the life and work of the author of *The American Commonwealth*. It is to be regretted that the comments of Professor Charles A. Beard were not included in the volume. All of the essays of this volume show how Bryce must be modified for present times, or how his prophecies have either miscarried or been realized.

Wilson just after the publication of the work.
FRANCIS G. WILSON
University of Illinois

GREGORY, HOMER E., and KATHLEEN BARNES. *North Pacific Fisheries with Special Reference to Alaska Salmon*. Pp. xviii, 322. New York: American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations, 1939. \$3.00.

Thoughtful reading of the excellent publication *North Pacific Fisheries* may well leave the impression that the undertaking was inspired by the problem involving international relations with respect to fisheries of the high seas. Although the approach to this problem has been through the salmon and halibut fisheries of North Pacific waters, the principles touched upon are applicable to the world over. One of the most difficult and unsettled aspects of international relations involves jurisdiction over the fisheries, and particularly the question of how far off shore control is vested in any nation to the exclusion of all other countries. The authors do not attempt a solution of the problem, but point out that the factors of priority in the field, conservation measures already carried on, size and extent of the industrial structures based on these fisheries, and the general relation to national economies are fundamental considerations.

Most of the volume is devoted to the salmon fisheries, the chief aquatic resource of the North Pacific, but considerable attention is given also to the halibut as an outstanding example of a fishery that has been placed upon a sound productive basis through international co-operation between the United States and Canada. A résumé is given of the historical development of the salmon-canning industry and of basic factors in that development, including the physical setting and technical improvements in the industry. The essential need for definite control of operations by a central administrative authority in order to prevent exhaustion of the resources through advancing techniques is clearly envisaged, and the nature and the effectiveness of the laws and regulations for the conservation of the fisheries are ably discussed.

The concentration of this volume on *The American Commonwealth* has prevented the contributors from discussing the disillusionment and the reactionary attitude that developed in Bryce during his last years. Such an attitude is reflected in many times in the letters he wrote to Americans during those years. Such material is at least essential in seeing Bryce in his totality.

On the other hand, students of the contemporary crisis of democracy would do well to read again the review of *The Commonwealth* written by Woodrow