

# BOOK REVIEWS

Selection of books for review is based on the editors' opinions regarding possible reader interest and on the availability of the book to the editors. Occasional selections may include books on topics somewhat peripheral to the subject matter ordinarily considered acceptable.



## WELL PRESERVED

*Title* Radiation Preservation of Foods

*Editor* Robert F. Gould

*Publisher* American Chemical Society

*Pages* v + 184

*Price* \$7.00

*Reviewer* E. C. Maxie

The title of the book, although technically appropriate, is unfortunate because several other books or monographs bearing the same title have appeared.

Publishing compilations of symposia papers in book form usually results in a disjointed presentation of subject matter, and this book suffers from this affliction. Even so, it is a valuable addition to the literature of a rapidly developing technology in food preservation.

The most glaring deficiency of the book is the absence of information on the safety and wholesomeness of irradiated foods. It is difficult to imagine a symposium on food irradiation without one or more papers concerned with safety and wholesomeness.

The book will be a valuable resource document for persons interested in irradiation of meats. The chapters on this subject are generally good and include much worthwhile information. The chapters concerned with fruits are less valuable, for there is no information on

the effects of irradiation on the pathogens that attack fruits. Further, much good information on irradiation effects on fruits and fruit pathogens that was available in 1965 has not been touched.

The quality of the illustrations in the book is excellent. The text material is well written and easy to read. Persons interested in food preservation will find the book of value, and those interested in food irradiation should consider it a must volume for their technical library.

*E. C. Maxie is Professor of Pomology at the Davis Campus of the University of California, where he does research and teaches in the fields of postharvest biochemistry and physiology of fruits, with special emphasis on irradiation effects. His PhD (1953, Plant Physiology) is from Purdue.*

## CLEAR PERSPECTIVE

*Title* Science, Government and the Universities

*Introduction* Frederick Seitz

*Publisher* University of Washington Press, 1966

*Pages* vii + 116

*Price* \$4.95

*Reviewer* Ernest F. Johnson

The autumn meeting of the National Academy of Science in 1965, held at the University of Washington

in Seattle, included a symposium on the relationship between the universities and the federal government in the field of scientific research and development. Contributions to that symposium plus two relevant addresses delivered at the meeting have been assembled into an attractive and timely little book. Much has been written and spoken in recent years about the interactions between government and universities, but it would be difficult to find a clearer perspective than is afforded by the book reviewed here. Each author has a pivotal position in the scientific community, or in the university, or in the government, and each identifies quite specifically what he believes should be done and what he expects will be done.

Despite the diversity of background and of responsibility of the authors, their views by and large are either concordant or complementary. The plea of the medieval historian, who is also a university president, for more humanistic emphasis in higher education, is echoed by the professor of biochemistry, who is also board chairman of the National Science Foundation, and who observes that science is the most liberalizing of the liberal arts. The concern of the Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology that scientific excellence in universities be preserved and extended is reflected in the particular views of the Directors of NIH and NSF and the late Deputy Director of NASA.

For the reader who would like to know the likely trends in the relations between the federal government and institutions of higher learning in