

As a skeleton assembler, Schelling has done a thorough and workmanlike job. The book is in four parts. The first of these covers the standard two-equation closed-system case dealt with in an increasing number of elementary and intermediate texts. It reads quite easily and should be useful to the great bulk of students and practitioners. After Part I, however, the gradient of complexity (if not of basic difficulty) rises sharply. The usefulness of these later parts may be limited to references and checks against independent studies by oneself and other workers. Part II, for example, introduces complications due to economic class structure, and also provides explicit treatment of government receipts and expenditures. Part III opens the system to international trade, and Part IV introduces dynamics in the form of leads and lags in adjustment.

The author's guiding hand is limited almost entirely to the algebra as algebra, and the reader must be his own economist. Limitations of time and space have reduced the economics proper to a minimum. It will require a well-trained specialist to appreciate the economic significance of many of Schelling's results, especially those derived from the solution of numerous simultaneous equations and including large numbers of coefficients whose values are undetermined. In short, like most skeletons, this one is short of flesh.

The reader must also be his own statistician or econometrician. Schelling's algebra has run well ahead of his statistics as well as his economics. The reader must decide for himself whether the author's postulates accord with statistical fact, and also guess at the probable values of many of the parameters, since Schelling has made no empirical contribution. Among the questionable relations which this reviewer noted (in Part II) were linear functions relating investment, government expenditures, and tax receipts to national income alone, with other variables, such as assets and interest rates, ignored. Furthermore, as an illustration of how the best of us can be bemused at times by our own algebra, the "investment function" is supposed not to vary with the distribution of income between profits and wages.

If he ventures beyond Part I, the reader should also cling constantly to pencil and paper. The author and publisher have been relatively lavish quantitatively with their mathematics, leaving almost nothing to "it follows that" and "it can easily be shown." Nevertheless, pencil and paper are canteens in the desert for all readers unable to solve three or more simultaneous equations mentally, or to keep in mind a long running glossary of symbols which, like characters in Russian novels, are otherwise difficult to associate either with each other or with roles in the story.

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MERRITT, WALTER GORDON. *Destination Unknown: Fifty Years of Labor Relations*. Pp. x, 454. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1951. \$5.65.

During much of the past half century Mr. Merritt, of the New York bar, has represented employers in many of their most important controversies with labor unions. As a young lawyer, son of a Danbury hat manufacturer, he figured prominently in the Danbury Hatters litigation and in other leading cases involving labor boycotts, notably the Buck's Stove, Coronado, Duplex, and Bedford Stone cases. For many years he served the anthracite coal operators in their dealings with the union.

This book's text falls into two parts. The first is historical, with special reference to the author's experiences; the second is rather discursively topical and analytical, putting forward a number of constructive suggestions. Both sections are abundantly documented. Appendixes are devoted to state legislation on labor relations, including a digest of the comprehensive and short-lived statute enacted by Delaware in 1947.

Our author naturally devotes considerable space to dubious or worse features of union activity, past and present; and it is not surprising that he says much less about violence, espionage, and trickery on the employing side. He tells, however, how he has often courted and received unpopularity among employers by standing for a real right of workers to organize and bar-

gain collectively, unobstructed by "yellow-dog" contracts. He concedes that employers lived in a fool's paradise before the New Deal labor legislation broke upon them and urges that labor should reconcile itself to somewhat comparable regulation. "I have not such confidence in the self-restraint of employers that I would leave the workers unorganized and unprotected," he says, "nor have I such confidence in the organizations of the workers that I would leave employers and society unprotected from their excesses."

The Taft-Hartley Act is approved by Mr. Merritt as to its general orientation and as to most of its particulars, but he calls for further regulation of rights to strike and to lock out, particularly in order to keep coal mines and the railways operating.

Emphasizing the criteria of workability and cultivation of respect for due legal processes, he urges that government should more effectively support private efforts toward enforcement of labor agreements and toward arbitration, as the final step in disputes, regarding contract terms as well as grievances. He thinks the doctrine developed under the Norris-LaGuardia Act, that the employer is not entitled to equitable protection if he has refused arbitration, should be matched by differentiating a union's legal status as to strike activities according to the objective of the strike and its record as to contract fulfillment and willingness to arbitrate. For coal mining, Mr. Merritt's package includes regional contracts expiring at different seasons of the year, so that a legal strike may occur in only a minor part of the industry at any one time. For railroading, his novelty is mandatory routine wage determination in connection with the Interstate Commerce Commission. He does not seem to realize how largely the rail workers depend on alterations and interpretations of their working rules to improve their take-home pay.

In general the volume is more impressive as a judiciously *ex parte* contribution to the history of our labor relations and as a wrestle with the problems of public policy therein involved than as a positive, well-articulated program for the future.

But the problems are so difficult that this is not faint praise.

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MILLER, GLENN W. *Problems of Labor*. Pp. xvi, 560. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1951. \$5.00.

What with the issuance of revised editions of older textbooks in the "labor problems" field and the publication of new texts, the saturation point must surely be near—if there is any saturation point at all for textbooks in an area where time alone requires additions to the teaching material. This is recognized by Professor Miller himself in the preface to his volume. The justification for this new text, in the words of the author, lies in "a different organization and degree of emphasis on various subjects," particularly "a much heavier emphasis . . . on government intervention in labor-management relations than is customary." In other words, as between the encyclopedic type of text and the texts which choose some identifiable and more digestible portion of the field, Professor Miller has chosen the encyclopedic, with a variation of emphasis.

It is always difficult to quarrel with personal preferences, but looking at the organization of the volume, which the author states is a result of his teaching experience, it seems to this reviewer that the sequence in which the subjects are covered is such that any student with a logical mind (and there are such) will read the volume in a different order unless forced by assignment to do otherwise. For example, after two chapters of "background" and "approaches" we get three chapters on union history, structure, and so forth. Then comes a chapter on "The Interest and Approach of Employers," followed by "The Place and Purpose of Labor Legislation," and numerous chapters on unemployment, old age dependency, sickness and accidents, wages and wage theories, and hours problems. It is only about fourteen chapters later that we return to the unions, with chapters on the right to organize, on collective bargaining, and on the settlement of disputes. During this interval, the author ties the unions into the story by comment on the