the Patternist is a non-philosophical scientist, etc. The scientist in action is a non-Absolutist; he is a Descriptivist. George thus violates the principles that science does not Assess Values and does not use the Should-Ought and Attack-Escape mechanisms. Implicitly always, and explicitly frequently, he does all three. By asserting that we perceive by apprehending wholes, he implies an epistemology; by assuming the uniformity of nature which shows patterned behavior, that man is a patterned part of it and so is an important factor in scientific action, etc., he implies an ontology. Apparently, by eschewing philosophy, he means merely the kind of philosophy which doesn’t please him. His book would be better if he had made his implicit philosophical and metaphysical biases more explicit. One may agree thoroughly with the author’s general point of view (as I do with some reservations) and yet object strongly to his denial that he has any philosophy merely because he likes his own better than the other fellow’s which is called “repulsive” (p. 41) and “stultifying” (p. 42).

There are five chapters on Getting Scientific Facts: Eye-witness Observation; Scientific Observation; Pattern; Are Facts First Seen in Isolation?; Selection and Abstraction. There follow seven on Arranging Scientific Facts; Order, Laws, and Classification; Pattern in Action. In addition, there are two on Scientific Theory; Problems of Theorizing; Experimental Technique; Future of Experimental Research. These are carefully reasoned, clearly expressed, and should be valuable to all sociologists who regard their subject as a phase of natural science.

Read Bain

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Scientific Social Surveys and Research is an excellent book with a somewhat misleading title. Either “Social Surveys and Social Research,” which emphasizes the dichotomy actually made by the author, or “Scientific Social Studies,” which emphasizes the unifying element in the two, would have been more declaratory of the content. The author defines a social survey as a “study . . . of current foci of infection, of pathological conditions, having definite geographical limits and bearings, for the purpose of presenting a constructive program for social advance . . . ” (p. 56). Social research, on the other hand, is regarded as interested in arriving at conceptualizations and generalizations which contribute to our theoretical knowledge of society. The social researcher is thus more completely the scientist than the social surveyor, since his aims as well as his methods are scientific; but the latter may be scientific in his methods too. Since this is chiefly a work on
methods and techniques, the interests of both types of student may be car-
ried along together.

More than half the book—the heart of it—is devoted to the consideration
of such methods and techniques. The arrangement is logical and the treat-
ment of each subject incisive. The exposition is understandable to a begin-
ner and yet is so thorough and well integrated as to be suggestive even to
the advanced student. The excellence of Dr. Young’s chapters on inter-
viewing, the historical method, and the case-study method (to take only
three) is matched by that of Professor Schmid’s chapters on statistical con-
cepts and techniques, graphic presentation, and the ecological method. All
fit well into the scheme of the whole and the quality of the work is uniformly
scholarly.

Not only are methods and techniques made vivid by constant illustration
from surveys and research projects, but subsequent chapters are devoted to
the studying of culture groups, institutions, and urban natural areas in
order to show just how various approaches can be integrated in actual re-
search. Auxiliary aids to clarity, such as tables and figures, are generously
employed, and the value of photography as an observational technique is
illustrated. The questions and suggestions for further study at the end of
each chapter should prove pedagogically valuable. A classified bibliography
of some eight hundred titles is appended.

The only omission that struck the reviewer—and this is perhaps not seri-
ous in an introductory book—is that of any discussion of the logic of sci-
ence. It seems important that our students realize that scientific analysis
is always in terms of a theoretical system and that only certain aspects of
phenomena are relevant to any one system. They must early become aware
that scientific generalizations do not encompass reality itself, but only as-
pects of reality.

It is perhaps unfortunate that Elmer’s Social Research appeared at a
time which invites comparison with Dr. Young’s book, for such comparison
is consistently to the disadvantage of the former. And this is all the more
ture because Elmer purports to be aiming higher, to be presenting “the
principles and philosophy of the subject” (p. vi). If the failure to treat the
logic of science or the relations of sociology to other social sciences in the
field of research is excusable in an introductory text, it is not in a book in-
tended for advanced students.

The arrangement of Elmer’s volume is awkward in the extreme. For in-
cidence, the most detailed, but still quite inadequate, treatment of statistical
concepts comes in Chapters XIX and XX under the head, “Preparing Data
for Analysis,” in spite of the fact that Chapter X is entitled “Use of Statis-
tics in Social Research” and Chapter XVI, “The Sample in Social Re-
search.” Even within chapters the arrangement of subject matter often ap-
ppears illogical.

The contents of the volume are a strange mixture of ponderous abstract
statements, quotations from other authors, and excerpts from research re-
ports. The treatment is eclectic in the chaotic sense. One does not feel that
the author is ruling his material. What he draws from others appears un-
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digested. The quotations, for instance, are not always apt (e.g., quotation from Bernard, p. 55). Occasionally there occur what seem to be meaningless sentences (pp. 24, 45). And throughout there is much unnecessary repetition.

These faults will make the book confusing to the beginner in social research and irritating to the advanced student. The latter will also be annoyed with inaccuracies of statement (pp. 8, 263) and seeming contradictions, such as the identification of the case method with broad historical research on page 85 and with individual rehabilitation on page 112.

Throughout the book Dr. Elmer seems to hold that social research can reveal the total significance of social activities. For instance, he poses as a proper problem of investigation the social significance of public school education (p. 20). The reviewer believes such a problem impossible of theoretical formulation, let alone scientific solution. Perhaps the author’s standpoint here is all one piece with his notion that the social survey is to sociology what the laboratory is to chemistry and biology (p. 197). He seems not to realize that the social survey does not yield the selected facts with which to test hypotheses crucially, as does the laboratory.

The author’s conception of social causation is also open to question. The conditions which give rise to social activities are consistently regarded as external and overt. There is no acknowledged place in his scheme for the influence of cultural interests or values which operate upon the situation from inside people’s heads.

One of the merits of the book is the author’s frequent warning against mere fact-gathering or “counting research.” Another is that it makes the student aware of many types of social research. Not only are various projects described and excerpts from their statements of method or their findings given, but there are carefully prepared bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

Robert Cooley Angell

University of Michigan


“This Survey was undertaken with the aid of a grant to the National Industrial Development Council of Wales and Monmouthshire from the Commissioner for Special Areas (England and Wales).”

In 1932, there was published an industrial survey of South Wales made for the Board of Trade during 1931 by University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. “The purpose of that Survey was to review the situation and prospects of the chief industries within the region and to calculate the volume of labour attached to those industries, but estimated to be surplus to their requirements.” That survey did not suggest remedies for the situation described. In 1934, His Majesty’s Stationery Office published a