
American Science in the Age of Jackson. *George H. Daniels.* Columbia University Press, New York and London. 1968. viii+282 p. \$7.95.

The reader may be disappointed with this book, because he might expect it to be something it is not. The title would make some anticipate finding a survey and description of the important American scientific discoveries and developments from 1815 to 1845. On the contrary, the reader will find an historical analysis of the philosophies and approaches of representative scientists of these years, as determined by the quantity of their publications in sixteen nationally distributed journals, and not a consideration of those developments that have had impact upon the science of our day. Thus, one is presented with an overview and analysis of the commonly held scientific and philosophical ideas of the intellectual class of the period. A major portion treats scientific explanation as it relates to the overthrow of Baconianistic philosophy.

There are two very useful appendices; the first contains biographical and bibliographical sketches of fifty-five leading American scientists of the period 1815 to 1845, and the second contains a statistical survey of American scientific journals from 1771 to 1849. Among the fifty-five scientists listed in the first appendix, some of the names will be familiar to most people; however, there are a number of names that will be unfamiliar. This appendix is a good place to begin a search for further information about these men, although one cannot always rely upon the complete accuracy of the information. For example, the reader is told that a complete Thomas Nuttall bibliography appeared in *Popular Science Monthly* for March, 1895, but there is no bibliography there and, so far as I know, the only one of any completeness was published in 1959 (C. E. Smith, Jr., and J. W. Thieret, *Thomas Nuttall 1786-1859*; an evaluation and bibliography, *Leaf. West. Bot.* 9: 33-42). Under C. S. Rafinesque, one finds the obviously misleading statement, "His publications, all in 1818, were in descriptive zoology, botany, and meteorology."

The book is well printed, with few typographical errors. It would be of interest to all those who wish to know more about the history and philosophy of American Science.

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