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Book Notice

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The recurrent question about the adequacy of the material resources of the earth to satisfy the needs and wants of a steadily increasing population is here re-examined by twenty authors in as many chapters. Under four major headings: The Population Factor, Food Resources, Material Resources of Industry, and Energy Resources, the numerous aspects of this age-old but ever-new problem are reviewed and summarized in a brief presentation of only 262 pages.

In the section on population five different authors discuss briefly, if not definitively, the most important features of population such as absolute numbers, densities, birth rates, death rates, natural increase, and the differences among peoples in many parts of the world in respect to these demographic phenomena. The controversial issue of birth control is mentioned but receives very little attention.

The situation in respect to food resources is presented by six authors in six chapters in part two and all agree that productivity of the land has declined in many parts of the world, that the limits on production are far in the future, and that a very large increase of food can be expected by improved land management policies, the more effective use of the water resources, by the application of modern science and technology, and by an attack upon the cultural drag of backward practices in agriculture.

In part three four authors survey the material resources of industry to be derived from the land and the sea and note the increasing demands for industrial and structural materials as our power-using economy becomes more and more complex.

In part four, five authors examine the power situation, express concern about the adequacy of the fossil fuels to meet the long-term needs of a modern industrial society, report the facts and the hopes in respect to atomic power, and point out the limitations and the prospects in the utilization of solar energy.

Condensed in this small book is a carefully organized statement about the adequacy of the resources of the earth to satisfy the requirements of a growing population in respect to food, clothing, shelter, and the higher wants of people in different cultural areas of the world.

*Guy-Harold Smith.*