Book Notice

This is a book on military aviation written for young people. It is written on a simplified level and is profusely illustrated with photographs of military aircraft, their flight operations, auxiliary equipment needed for crews, instruments which make flying more safe, etc. All types of Air Force planes are included, even some of the more recent research planes and guided missiles. Many of the current problems and terms are discussed in a simplified language—such as the sonic barrier, thermal barrier, types of propulsion units, flight instruments, radar, landing approach systems, physical hazards of high speed and high altitude flight, etc. A section is also included on the U. S. air defense. As so often happens, simplification leads to some slightly inaccurate statements. However, at this level, this is not to be considered too much of a fault.

Throughout the book, I had the feeling that this was an Air Force propaganda piece (the authors are associated with the Wright Air Development Center). The Army is given very scant recognition (mention is made of their use of helicopters and a picture of the Nike is included). I searched in vain for any mention of the contributions of Naval Aviation or advances of nations other than the United States.

However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. This is a book for young folks. I gave it to my twelve year old son and he read it avidly.

Edward S. Foster, Jr.