

REVIEW

Exploring Mars.¹—In this book, you visit with Dr. Richardson not only Mars but all the other worlds around us. The expedition is not a product of science fiction, designed to give the reader thrills, but a fact-finding expedition narrated to give a picture of the planets as astronomers now see them. The result is a most readable book about a vitally interesting subject, written so that you do not wonder what is fact and what is theory. The language, however, is not technical; your teen-agers will enjoy it as soon as you have read it, unless they get hold of it first.

Dr. Richardson, an astronomer at the Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories, not only has available all the astronomical observations of the planets but has observed them himself with the most modern equipment. His training as a writer of astronomical textbooks and of science fiction makes it possible for him to present technical details in readable form. He has not avoided mathematics entirely, but you can follow him, if you can make change at the corner store. There are hundreds of questions about Mars and the other planets that cannot be answered yet. These questions are discussed, but more often than the astronomer would like, the answer is, "We do not know."

You will find *Exploring Mars* good reading and a good reference book, especially concerning the facts about space travel.

SETH B. NICHOLSON

¹ By Robert S. Richardson (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1955), 261 pages, \$4.00.