chemical experimentation and reasoning of the French scientist, Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, in the latter part of the 18th century. He was a most important man. Lavoisier has been dubbed "The Father of Modern Chemistry." Chemistry had been for over two thousand years without any reason. The study of this science was not a real study. It had been in the hands of magicians, astrologers, and courtesans. Very little progress had been made. Then came the Chemical Revolution which coincided with the French Revolution. Lavoisier started the Chemical Revolution with his publication in 1783 of a paper called *Reflections on Phlogiston,* in which he attacked an entirely erroneous explanation of chemical phenomena.

On July 14, 1789 the French Revolution began with the storming of the Bastille in Paris. Lavoisier, in order to finance his chemical experimentation, collected taxes for King Louis XVI. This did not endear him to the revolutionists. In 1794 Lavoisier was arrested by them, tried on false charges, and shortly guillotined. One of his contemporaries, Lagrange, the famous mathematician said, "It took only a moment to make this head fall, and a hundred years will perhaps not be enough to produce another like it." Such was not true for Lavoisier had laid a very solid ground upon which other heads could build our modern chemical world.

The author, Rebecca B. Marcus, has done a superb job in this book to make Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier and his time live again. Her description of his experiments, his writings, and his political adventures is most accurate and inspiring.

This book is written so as to firmly hold the interest of the reader, be he 12 or 80 years old. This biography is more than a biography. It is a history of Europe and America of the 18th century.

This book should be read in order to appreciate fully the chemistry of our times which we take too often for granted.

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COUNT RUMFORD, Sanborn C. Brown, 178 pp., $.95, Doubleday and Company Inc., New York 22, 1962.

This is one of the Science Study Series books written for high school students and others interested in science. Although the author is collecting material for a comprehensive biography of Count Rumford, this small volume is written to encourage young scientists to make their own investigation of natural phenomena and to convince them that the lives of scientists are as exciting as any.

Benjamin Thompson, who later became Count

Rumford, had political leanings along with his interest in science, which took him from colonial New England to England, and then to the continent of Europe. Many of his experiments were conducted to improve the equipment and living conditions of the armies he served. Such a small volume must omit many details and incidents of his life, but it does include interesting accounts of his work, such as nutrition, the intensity of light, and the Rumford Photometer, and heat as a form of energy.

The book certainly achieves its primary purpose of providing a survey within the grasp of the young student or the layman.

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CARL FRIEDRICH GAUSS—PRINCE OF MATHEMATICIANS, William L. Schaaf, 168 pp., Franklin Watts, Inc., New York 22, 1964.

This book is basically designed to provide the reader with a knowledge of the life of Carl Gauss. The author has included significant information which influenced the activities of Carl Gauss during his entire life. The author has also included a sufficient amount of mathematics and mathematical curiosities to provide the reader with a very brief introduction to such subject areas as non-Euclidian geometry, number theo-