

BOOK REVIEW

536 PUZZLES AND CURIOUS PROBLEMS

by Henry Ernest Dudeney

Edited and with an Introduction by Martin Gardner

Some very pertinent information about the author and this collection of mathematical problems may be gleaned from the introduction by Martin Gardner. Quote:

"Henry Ernest Dudeney . . . was England's greatest maker of puzzles. With respect to mathematical puzzles, especially problems of more than trivial mathematical interest, the quantity and quality of his output surpassed that of any other puzzlist before or since, in or out of England."

He was noteworthy for the originality of his work and his desire to give credit where credit was due when borrowing other people's ideas. He was unusually skillful in geometrical dissections and an expert in magic squares of various types. He was the first to apply the term "digital roots" in recreational mathematics.

The present volume combines two of his books which have been out of print since 1958, namely, "Modern Puzzles" and "Puzzles and Curious Problems." The puzzles have been rearranged and reclassified with American words replacing British, American currency substituted for English, etc., to adapt the material to the U. S. public.

A rapid survey of the volume brings about a number of encounters with old familiar favorites, but there is material to spare for just about every one, except possibly the puzzle specialist.

The book is well printed and put together in an attractive manner (see cover photograph p. 68). There are also answers to alleviate the danger of complete psychological frustration.

The publisher is Charles Scribner's Sons (1967) and the book sells for \$ 7.95.

Brother Alfred Brousseau
St. Mary's College, Calif.
