'Man and Mystery in Asia" (Dutton) is so colorful a book that it defies belief-yet, somehow, I believe it. After all, wanting to believe is to believe, isn't it? Moreover, no one has successfully disproved any of Ferdinand Ossendowski's statements. On the whole this new book by the author of "Beasts, Men and Gods" is not so good a book as the other, but it is a more exciting book. In this case, violent journalism has been allowed to run away with simplicity in the telling: while the book contains passages of great beauty, it occasionally reads very much like a travel story in a newspaper Sunday supplement. However, this tale of sojourn and scientific exploration in the East has much of the quality of the "Arabian Nights". Take an early chapter titled "Among the Flowers"here is a description of the poisonous night violet that will live in the memory for some years. Or take a characterization like that of "The Black Monk". It might well be a chapter in a good novel. I recommend this volume heartily to all those who liked "Beasts, Men and Gods", and all those who did not read Ossendowski's first book should read both.

-J, F.