

This one will make

THREE HUNDRED years of microscopes have brought mankind a long way—from the first discovery of bacteria to the ability to see atoms.

The "atom-viewer" is the latest electronic scanning instrument. It can magnify five million times.

"Its role in helping us to understand the hidden universe is potentially enormous," says British scientist Brian J. Ford in *The Revealing Lens* (Harrap, £2.25).

Modern microscopes have led to giant strides in other fields. Industrially, it was the microscope which enabled valves as big as light-bulbs to be replaced by units the size of sand grains.

Without these miniscule components, we would have had to forego much of modern radio, TV and radar, and men would still be waiting to walk on the moon.

Medically, the miniaturisation boons include cardiac pace-makers.

High-powered lenses discovered that micro-organisms (or 'germs') can disrupt industrial

you think

product output of the world's fisheries—helping to overcome the foodstuff deficiency in under-developed nations.

A revealing book—and one to make you think.

processes as well as affect health.

Many blisters and rust spots on finishes of cars, refrigerators, etc., are due to microbes living on metal surfaces and resistant to cleansing agents and paint.

Concorde was redesigned after it was found that microscopic fungi can live in fuel and clog fuel jets.

Microbes can also work FOR industry. Diesel oil can be prevented from thickening in cold weather by introducing yeast-type organisms which feed on the waxes in the oil.

After eliminating the wax, the organisms are removed as sludge rich in protein and B-vitamin, which can be used as cattle cake.

Such purification of only 3 per cent of the world's annual crude oil production could equal the annual protein b-