

CHEMISTRY

Discovery of Bohemium Called All a Mistake

NO super-heavy element bohemia really exists. Announcement made last month, when the supposedly new substance was first reported by Dr. O. Kobic, was premature, now declares the Yugoslavian scientist.

In a recent issue of *Nature*, Dr. Kobic withdraws all claims to the discovery.

The tiny speck of yellow powder obtained from pitchblende, a common source of radioactive material like radium, was not a new element. It was a form of tungsten metal, declares Dr. Kobic, like that found in the small wires inside some electric lights. But the tungsten was in a form not easily identified.

For the month that Dr. Kobic's element bohemia was thought to exist, science had to puzzle over two elements both having atomic number 93. As such they were both heavier than any elements recognized in chemical tables which end with uranium, element 92. The second element 93 was that of Dr. Enrico Fermi, Italian physicist from Rome.

Now the Italian variety of element 93 stands alone. It is radioactive and disintegrates like radium. Substantiation of Dr. Fermi's work is still unreported by other scientists, and until such confirmation the reality of element 93 may be logically questioned.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

FORESTRY

No Crop Shortage in Northwestern Tree Seeds

TREES ARE certainly doing their part to keep the forests green and growing, the U. S. Forest Service reports. Race suicide is not one of their characteristics.

Investigations with seed traps on the Wind River Natural Area in the Columbia National Forest in Washington showed a seedfall of 4,219,950 tree seeds in an acre of virgin timber. The forest was a mixture of Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar and true firs, typical of the Douglas fir type of the Pacific Northwest. The hemlock was the most prolific seeder. Despite the seedfall of more than four million per acre, foresters classed it as a comparatively light seed year.

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• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
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Archaeology

MAYA RESEARCH, VOL. 1, NO. 1.—Edited by Frans Blom—*Alma Egan Hyatt Foundation, N. Y.*, \$5 a year. A brand new quarterly for those interested in the progress of knowledge about the highest civilization of ancient Mexico and Central America. The quarterly opens its covers to the reader, appropriately and impressively, with a stock-taking of the state of Mayan research, by Prof. Tozzer. Passing briefly over what has been achieved, Prof. Tozzer discusses the many absorbing problems that lie ahead. In addition to its longer articles, each issue of the quarterly is to feature a section of notes, in which scholars and students may contribute short first-hand accounts of their discoveries, and problems for discussion.

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Astronomy

EXPOSÉS DE L'ASTRONOMIE STELLAIRE—Pt. I, Histoire de l'Astronomie Stellaire Jusqu'à l'Epoque Contemporaine—H. Mineur—57 p., 15 francs; Pt. II, Eléments de Statistique Mathématique Applicables à l'Etude de l'Astronomie Stellaire—H. Mineur—40 p., 12 francs; Pt. III, Photographie Stellaire: Mesure Photographique des Positions et des Magnitudes des Etoiles—H. Mineur—67 p., 18 francs. *Hermann et Cie., Paris.*

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Mathematics

CALCUL SYMBOLIQUE—Pierre Humbert—*Hermann et Cie., Paris*, 31 p., 10 francs.

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Anthropology

THE OVIMBUNDU OF ANGOLA—Wilfrid D. Hambly—*Field Museum of Natural History*, 362 p., 84 plates in photogravure, \$2.75. A detailed ethnological study of a people in southeast Africa.

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Meteorology

FOG—Alexander McAdie—*Macmillan*—23 p., LII plates, \$2.50. In fourteen pages of type clouds, fog and fog dissipation methods are discussed. The remainder of the book consists of the beautiful pictures of cloud types taken from Professor McAdie's books on clouds. While admitting fog dissipation is at present impractical on a commercial scale, the author believes it will be done. He presents some of the stepping stones on which research of the future should go forward.

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Child Psychology

YOUR CHILD IS NORMAL—Grace Adams—*Covici, Friede*, 241 p., \$2. Parents who have been awed by the admonitions of child psychologists into a feeling of doubt regarding their own competency and their child's kinship with his fellows, will find cheer in the very title of this volume. Just as no one ever saw the "average voter," so no one has ever fondled the "normal child" of pencil and paper averages. If your child deviates from the "norm" that is to be expected. Care of the healthy child is discussed in readable fashion.

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Science

SOME ENIGMAS OF MODERN SCIENCE—Guy Clinton—*Published by author*, 26 p., cloth, 80c.; paper 60c. One man's view of what's wrong with modern science. The main trouble apparently is that science today has changed the rules of the "game." Now it sets up a hypothesis and holds to it until it is disproved. The author would like to go back to the older scheme of maintaining that a postulate fails unless supported by positive evidence.

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Engineering

POWER SUPPLY ECONOMICS—Joel D. Justin and William G. Mervine—*Wiley*, 276 p., \$3.50.

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Occupations

NEW CAREERS FOR YOUTH—Walter B. Pitkin—*Simon and Schuster*, 236 p., \$1.50. Highly inspirational, this will undoubtedly be useful to some young people now looking for jobs. On Mr. Pitkin's hopeful fields list are: the new housing, air conditioning, quality goods and service, retailing, personnel workers, applied psychology, vocational guidance, banking, hotels, cost accounting, appraisers, and several others. He also gives advice on how to make your own job and he lists what he considers overcrowded fields.

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Engineering

DIESEL HANDBOOK—Julius Rosbloom—*Clement V. Ritter*, 352 p., \$5.00. A practical book of instruction for engineers and students on modern Diesel engineering, land, marine, locomotive, aero, automotive and portable installations.

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