

# RADIO

October 12, 5:30 p. m., E.S.T.

INDIANS WHO MET COLUMBUS—Herbert W. Krieger of the Smithsonian Institution.

October 19, 5:30 p. m., E.S.T.

COUNTING BIRD NOSES—William Vogt, Editor of "Bird Lore".

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

## From Page 227

for a wax making concern at Racine, Wisconsin, Mr. Wright started from the bottom and fashioned an absolutely new unit.

The basis of Mr. Wright's new building is his upside-down "flower" column, as he terms it. The column is nine inches in diameter at its base, and widens gradually through its "stem." At the top of the "stem," there is a hollow cup, termed botanically the "calyx," which supports a large concrete dish, 18½ feet in diameter, called the "petal." The column is 21 feet 7½ inches high, which, with its base of nine inches, and according to present theories, should only be 6 feet 9 inches.

Far from being weak, however, the column supported a test load of 60 tons, and then it toppled only from an unbalanced load. Mr. Wright credits the great strength of the column to a steel mesh core, which he adapted to reinforce it, where in other structures steel rods are used. He explained that rods represent "bones of a human foot," where mesh represented "muscles and sinews," which are much stronger than bones.

In explaining the functional value of the column, Mr. Wright pointed out that: "By tapering the columns to nine inches at the floor we increase the building's floor space, we use a fraction of the concrete and steel that would ordinarily be used, we cut the cost and at the same time cut the dead weight." An estimated one third of the space will be conserved with the use of the column.

On the main floor of the building, there are 54 columns spaced 20 feet apart on center. The greatest weight that any of them will carry will be 12 tons, and the average weight will be two tons. This floor is one big room. On the theory that the quickest way to lose space is to have partitions, Mr. Wright has installed all the office workers at individual desks in the center of the

room, and the department officials around the sides in glassed-in cubby holes. All activity may be seen by one person.

The diamond shaped roof areas between the "petals" of the columns are filled in with glass. These skylights will admit light and reduce the expense of artificial lighting throughout the main part of the building which is but one story high. Decorative strips running full length along the sides of the building and around the edge of the roof are also of glass, and serve to admit light.

Mr. Wright's building technique is based entirely on what he terms "organic" architecture. It is the "marriage" of building materials. The concrete flows into the crevices of the bricks of the walls and fuses them into a solid wall. His plea is for more creative workmanship and less "machine age" standardized architecture.

The building is designed on the principle of air conditioning, and for this reason, there are no windows to be opened. It will be heated by steam pipes installed in the floor.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

## • First Glances at New Books

### Medicine

ADAPTATION IN PATHOLOGICAL PROCESSES—William H. Welch—*Johns Hopkins*, 58 p., \$1.50. One of the series of Bibliotheca Medica Americana of the Institute of the History of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University. Older physicians will be glad to reread this presidential oration by one of America's great medical leaders and present-day medical students will find this 40-year-old essay as stimulating and enlightening as any medical lecture they listen to today.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Archaeology

INDIAN SITES BELOW THE FALLS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK, VIRGINIA—David I. Bushnell, Jr.—*Smithsonian*, 65 p., illus., 75 c. See page 237.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Ornithology

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF MAGPIES—Jean M. Linsdale—*Cooper Ornithological Club*, 234 p., illus., \$3.50 paper, \$4.25 cloth (plus 3% sales tax if delivered in Calif.). An exhaustive, thoroughly documented, well illustrated monograph on the distribution, habits, etc. of one of the most interesting of bird genera.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Dendrology

TEXTBOOK OF DENDROLOGY—William M. Harlow and Ellwood S. Harrar—*McGraw-Hill*, 527 p., illus., \$4.50. Useful alike to forester and general field botanist is this new textbook. In concise, businesslike yet scholarly fashion it describes the principal forest trees of northern America and tells what they are good for. The photographic figures illustrating critical identification characters are of exceptional merit.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Science

THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: 1937—*British Association for the Advancement of Science, London*, 264 p., 3 shillings and sixpence. The annual volume containing the important leading addresses before the B. A. S. meeting at Nottingham.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Geography

THE FRAME OF THE ANCIENT GREEK MAPS—William Arthur Heidel—*American Geographical Soc.*, 141 p., \$2.50. See page 232.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

### Zoology

THE BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE WESTERN SLOPE OF THE AZUERO PENINSULA (REPUBLIC OF PANAMA)—John Warren Aldrich and Benjamin Patterson Bole, Jr.—*Cleveland Museum of Natural History*, 196 p., \$1.75. A monograph covering very thoroughly a limited area inhabited by a characteristic neotropical fauna.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1937

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