

ishes, peas and carrots, wheat and oats and rye, all came along with the white settlers; and so did pigweed and purslane, thistle and dandelion, velvet-leaf and jimsonweed and wild mustard, and others whose name is legion.

They arrived in all sorts of ways. Many, we may be sure, smuggled themselves in with supplies of garden and field seeds. Seed inspection, to keep such contaminants out of commercial seed supplies, has become a major function of federal and state agricultural departments, and despite the best efforts of the inspectors a certain small percentage of weed seeds still get by. Others probably came in ship-borne supplies of hay and straw used as feed and bedding for animals in transit. Still other weeds undoubtedly got their start on our shores when sailing ships dumped out the dirt and stones they carried in their holds as ballast.

A few weeds are plants that were brought in purposely and have since run wild—after the manner of the English sparrow and the starling. Such was the history of hemp, for example, brought in as foundation for a cordage industry that languished and died with the passing of sailing ships. Such also was the story of the teasle, whose prickly pods were once a necessary adjunct of the cloth-fulfilling industry. Some were originally ornamental plants, like the Australian saltbush on the West Coast and the Japanese honeysuckle along the Eastern seaboard.

But however they got here, and however little we want them now, they are here, and here they apparently are going to stay.

*Science News Letter, June 9, 1945*

## ● Just Off the Press ●

COASTS, WAVES AND WEATHER FOR NAVIGATORS—John Q. Stewart—*Ginn*, 348 p., illus., \$3.75.

HOW TO SOLVE IT, A New Aspect of Mathematical Method—G. Polya—*Princeton Univ. Press*, illus., 204 p., \$2.50.

HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY—Josef Maria Eder—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 860 p., illus., \$10.

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INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL SCIENCE—Lulli Lindh Muller and Dorothy E. Dawes—*Sanders*, illus., 454 p., \$3.

JOB PLACEMENT REFERENCE, With Introduction to the Job Placement Technique—Keith Van Allyn—*National Institute of Vocational Research*, 356 p., \$10.

MAN AND HIS FOOD—Labor's Committee on Food and Nutrition, cooperating with War

Food Administration, paper, 8 p., Free.

A MANUAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE, Prepared Under the Auspices of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council—Thomas T. Mackie and others—*Saunders*, illus., 727 p., \$6.

MEN AT WORK, Some Democratic Methods for the Power Age—Stuart Chase—*Harcourt*, 146 p., \$2.

PRACTICAL PATENT PROCEDURE—Lucy Brett Andrews—*Lucy Brett Andrews*, paper, 32 p., \$1.

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VEGETABLE DYES, from North American Plants, Douglas Leechman—*Webb*, 55 p., \$1.25.

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